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THE ALABAMA CONTROVERSY.

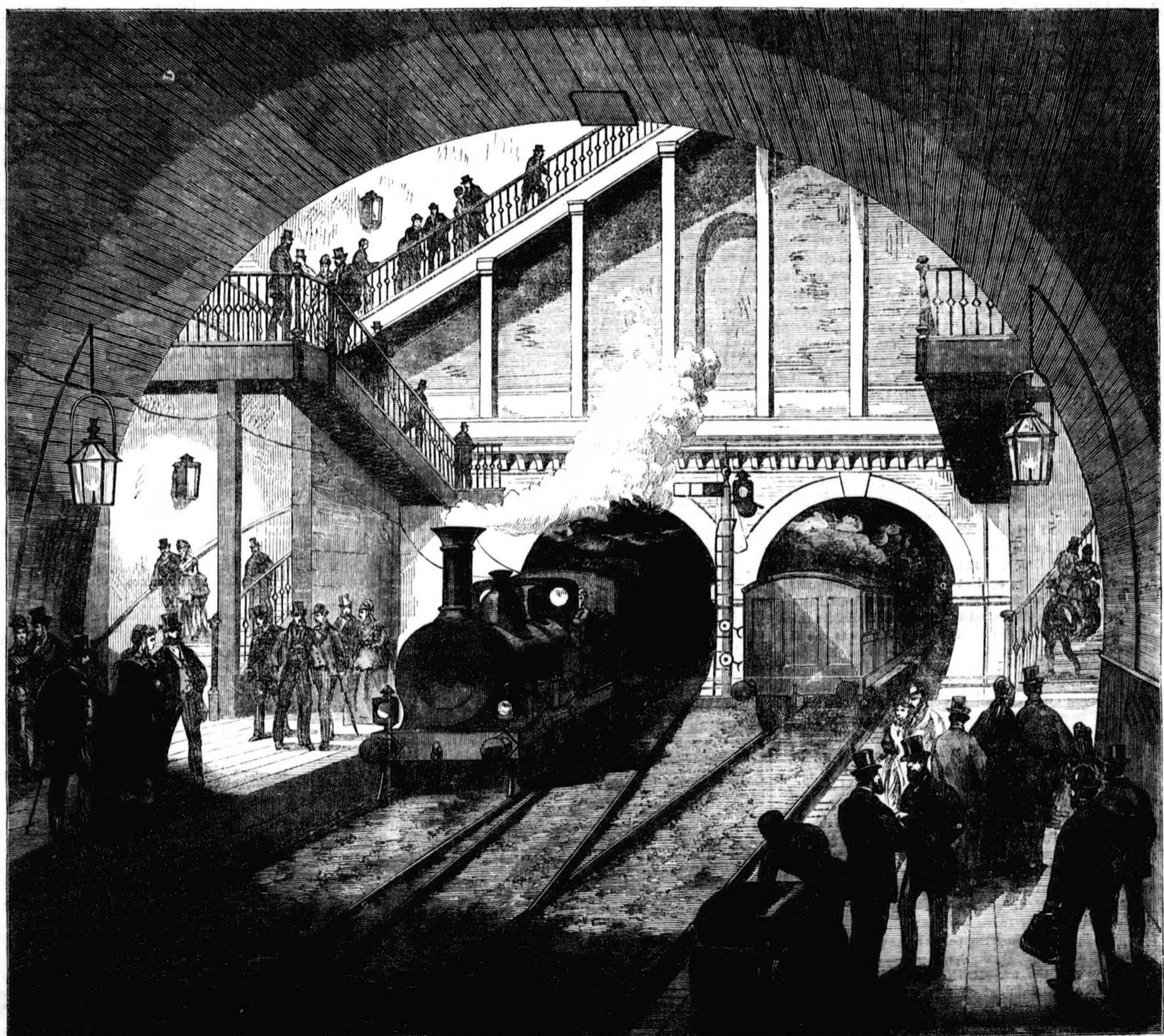
We don't like to make light of serious matters, but really this Alabama controversy is becoming more farcical than ever. There was a spice of comedy—we can scarcely think altogether unconscious—in the inflated tone assumed by Mr. Seward in his voluminous despatches on the subject; there was latent humour in the manner in which Mr. Adams continued to reiterate and exaggerate the statement of American grievances; there was "screaming" farce in the yells of George Francis Train and other "stump" orators to Great Britain to "pay the Alabama claims, or fight!" the bouleversement of the Reverdy Johnson negotiations, their conclusion, and the upsetting of the whole settlement by the Senate rejecting the treaty, was complete; Mr. Sumner's inflated estimate of the damage sustained by the United States was very mirth-provoking; and now we have Mr. Secretary Fish crowning the farcical edifice in the elaborate

despatch published this week, in which he re-states the whole case with all the old misrepresentations of facts, misconceptions of principles, illogical reasoning, forgetfulness of precedents, blindness to the consequences of the doctrines laid down, and with a variety of new mystifications of his own superadded.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to believe that American statesmen really have faith in their own case or that they wish to see the dispute settled. They like to keep a grievance on hand for production when needed; and to this end they seem purposely to draw their brief in such a way as to render a settlement of the case impossible. But in keeping this grievance, it seems to us that they sacrifice the interests of their clients if American citizens have any real claims against Great Britain at all. The United States in this matter occupy the position of plaintiff; we, that of defendant; and it is surely more for the advantage of a

plaintiff than of a defendant to have a case brought to trial. The *status quo* answers the purpose of the latter well enough; but the former can only be advantaged by obtaining a decision. If the Americans are in the right, they will have something to receive on a decision being given in their favour, in whatever court the case may be tried; if Great Britain is in the wrong, she will have a good deal to pay on the verdict going against her. It is, therefore, her interest to play a "long-game," while it is as clear as that of America to "force the running." We consequently question the affected indifference of the Washington Cabinet as to obtaining a settlement, or else we must take the liberty of doubting their belief in the soundness of their own case, seeing that they are so averse, apparently, to letting the matter come to trial.

The last and the present Ministers—Lord Stanley as well as Lord Clarendon—have shown a disposition to meet the



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views of American negotiators as far as possible, consistently with the honour and the interest of England. They have conceded every point on which it was possible to make a concession, even, as Lord Clarendon says, to the extent of sacrificing convictions and resolutions; but still the Americans will not be satisfied. They continue to make fresh demands, to raise new difficulties, to reiterate old mis-statements, to introduce new ones, and to import elements into the discussion which have nothing to do with the merits of the matters in dispute. In these circumstances it is futile to renew the negotiations; and we think Lord Clarendon is quite right when he says that, seeing America has rejected a settlement come to with her accredited representative, it is for her to take the initiative now, and propose a means of arrangement. In that we believe the British people will fully concur; and the Americans may rest assured that we have already gone as far in meeting their views as we are ever likely to go, and really do not care whether the dispute is settled or not. Our national conscience is easy: we do not believe we have done any real wrong; we know that we intended none; and if it affords the Americans any satisfaction to keep open a wound from which they must suffer, if anybody does, why—they are welcome to that satisfaction.

We cannot allow them, however, to keep up the dispute on false pretences, though it be irksome to keep refuting statements, and yet to find them continually reiterated. We suspect that Lord Clarendon—suave gentleman though he be—must have felt a little “riled” (to borrow a word from our Transatlantic friends—or opponents, perhaps, we ought to call them) when Mr. Motley read to him the despatch of the Secretary of State; that is, if the amusement the document afforded him, and the consciousness he must have felt of easily demolishing it, did not quench irritation. And very effectually his Lordship did demolish Mr. Fish's declamatory indictment by the calm statement of facts made in answer to it.

General Grant's Secretary of State makes a great deal of capital out of what he assumes to be a fact—namely, that the North was fighting against slavery; and he thinks it hard that in such a contest Great Britain should have withheld her sympathy, as he says she did, seeing that Great Britain had theretofore been the leading opponent of negro bondage all the world over. Now we maintain that there are several fallacies in this way of putting the case. In the first place, Great Britain could have nothing to do with the motives that actuated the combatants on either side; she could only, as a neutral, take cognisance of the fact that there was a combat going on. Individual citizens among us might sympathise with one side or the other; but the nation, as a nation, had no business to judge of the right or wrong of the matter; her only duty was to stand aloof, and interfere with neither party; and that, we maintain, she endeavoured to the best of her ability to do. In the second place, we deny entirely that the Northerners all through the contest were fighting against slavery: they were contending for the preservation of the Union, and emancipation of the slaves was merely adopted as a means to that end. This is clear from reiterated declarations of President Lincoln, who, in his inaugural address, delivered after the struggle had commenced, said, “I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.” Again, in a letter written in the second year of the war, Mr. Lincoln still more emphatically repeated this declaration. He said, “My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery and the coloured race I do because I believe it helps to save this Union; and what I forbear I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union.” It is plain, therefore, that the North was not fighting against slavery from the beginning, and was not, on that score, entitled to expect Great Britain to violate the rules of neutrality in its favour. In the third place, even supposing the abolition of slavery was the aim of the Northern States, they strove to accomplish that object in what many people considered, and with good reason, to be a mischievous way. They sought to right a social wrong by perpetrating a political injustice—that is, accepting the *ex post facto* statement of their motives made by Mr. Fish, they sought to abolish slavery by annihilating the political rights of the Southern States, which, having joined the Union of their own free will, were entitled, as many persons in both America and England considered, to quit it when they felt that it no longer subserved their interests. We do not believe that a single man in Great Britain sympathised with the seceded States so far as the question of slavery was concerned; but we do know that many persons did sympathise with them on the political question of State rights. And it is worthy of remark that whereas in the North slavery was put more and more in the foreground as the contest advanced, in the South, that point receded in importance, and the political element came to be all in all. It consequently follows that, in helping to protract the war—if she did so help, which we doubt—Great Britain most effectually promoted the anti-slavery cause, and ought to receive the thanks, and not the vituperation, of American abolitionists.

On the point of help, however, we must entirely differ

from Mr. Fish; for it is absurd to suppose that a full third of the American people could have been induced to engage in war, or have been enabled to carry it on for five years, on the faith of British sympathy with slaveholding—a feeling that never had any existence—or on the supplies drawn from our shores. The very reverse is the fact. At the outset our sympathies were almost unanimously with the North, until it was seen that the abolition of slavery was not the aim of Northern statesmen; and all through the struggle a large majority of Englishmen—though we were not of the number—wished the North to succeed. And as to supplies, the North drew upon our resources to an infinitely greater extent than the South could possibly do, comparatively bankrupt as she was in funds and in credit, and with her ports more or less closed by the blockade, which rendered supplies from without both limited and precarious. If the South obtained two or three British-built ships, armed (after quitting British ports, however) with a few British-made cannon, the North drew largely upon the funds of British capitalists, and supplied her armies with British-made rifles and British-manufactured ammunition. The balance of advantages was consequently vastly on the side of the North, which has, therefore, small ground for complaint on that score. But, apart from positive benefits derived by either side from British neutrality, we maintain that the proclamation of neutrality, and the recognition of belligerency it involved, were of immense negative advantage to the North, because, but for the Queen's proclamation, and on the supposition that there was no war, the Southern rebels must still have been considered citizens of the United States, and the Government at Washington must have been held responsible for all their deeds, as well as for the interruption to commerce caused by an illegal blockade, and all the loss and damage British traders thereby sustained. From all this the Queen's proclamation relieved the United States, and thare the risk of loss by blockade-running upon British subjects, instead of leaving it to rest with the United States Government and citizens.

We repeat that we cannot suppose Mr. Fish in earnest in making the statements and advancing the arguments he does; and can fancy him slyly chuckling to himself as he penned his despatch over the fun of the thing and the neat shots at “bunkum” he was making. He is quite welcome to his joke; and when he and his countrymen are in a grave mood, they may be sure that the British Government and people will be ready to talk the matter over seriously, and settle it on reasonable terms.

THE EAST LONDON RAILWAY.

In a previous Number we gave an account of the portion of the East London Railway opened a few weeks since. Our Engraving this week shows the line in its passage through the Thames Tunnel, which has thus been at last turned to useful purposes, and no longer remains one of the gigantic engineering failures associated with the name of Brunel.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AT A BRISTOL THEATRE.—A shocking occurrence took place at the new Theatre Royal, Bristol, on Monday night. A great crowd had assembled at the theatre to witness the pantomime, and a steep gangway leading to the pit and gallery was crowded. About seven o'clock, just before the doors were opened, a cry of “Fire!” was raised, and immediately the doors were unbarred there was a fearful rush towards them. One poor woman fell down, and the obstruction caused large numbers of others who were pushing in to fall on her, and ultimately nearly thirty men, women, and young people tumbled over one another in a heap, over which those behind still pushed in order to obtain admission. When the panic was over attention was paid to those on the ground, and twenty-three persons were taken up insensible. Fourteen of those undermost were found to be quite dead. The remainder were conveyed to the infirmary, where four others died, making eighteen deaths in all. The performance of the pantomime was continued to the end. The dread of further accident, it is stated, prevented the manager from stopping the performance. When the play was over, and hundreds inside knew the real facts, the scenes outside the theatre and at the infirmary are said to have been very painful.

ACCIDENT AT THE CROYDON THEATRE.—On Wednesday night a most alarming accident occurred at the New Theatre, Croydon, during the performance of the pantomime of “Ali Baba.” The introduction had just concluded, and the transformation scene had taken place, when the dress of Mlle. d'Arnauld, the Columbine, burst into a blaze. A panic ensued, and Mr. Clarence Holt, the manager, who had just quitted the stage, on which he had been called by the audience to testify their approbation of the scene, again rushed on, and, divesting himself of a large winter coat that he was wearing, threw the lady down, and, by wrapping the coat round her he succeeded in extinguishing the fire. Mlle. d'Arnauld was, we regret to state, however, severely burnt on the thighs and arms, besides sustaining a severe shock to the nervous system. She had, it appears, unconsciously placed herself, while forming a group with the other pantomimists, too near some floor lights behind the first set. Dr. Sutherland was immediately in attendance, and every attention was rendered to the unfortunate young lady, who remains in a very critical state. Had the occurrence taken place on Boxing Night, when the theatre was full to overflowing, a serious calamity must have occurred. As it was, there was a general rush from the house, and many ladies fainted. Mr. Holt, the manager, and Mr. Griffin received some burns in rendering assistance.

A VERY IRISH QUARREL.—A dispute, local in its character but acquiring general interest from the extraordinary weapons resorted to by one of the parties, was the subject of discussion at a numerously-attended meeting of the Kilkenny Hunt Club, held at Kilkenny on Monday. The dispute appears to have originated in some private quarrel between Mr. Meredyth, the master of the hounds, and Mr. Bryan, M.P. for the county, and to have culminated in a demand by some of the members for the resignation of Mr. Meredyth. The great majority of the club have steadily and warmly supported Mr. Meredyth and have refused to entertain the suggestion that he should resign. Mr. Bryan openly expressed his dissatisfaction, and declined to allow his coverts to be drawn. This was followed by threats on the part of sympathisers that “there should be no more hunting until Squite Bryan was satisfied,” and these threats have been fully carried out. Two hounds were poisoned towards the close of last season, and sixteen more have shared a similar fate since the present season commenced. The coverts were poisoned in the first instance; and, when measures were adopted to prevent that, the public roads were strewed with poisoned meat. In addition, two coverts have been burnt, and others, set on fire with the same object, were only saved by the exertions of the neighbouring farmers, who, it is said, are, as a body, favourable to the continuance of the hunting, and are in no way responsible for the outrages. These, it is said, are the work of persons hired for the purpose. The result of all these outrages was that Mr. Meredyth thought it advisable to suspend hunting, and to convene the meeting which was held on Monday. The attendance was very large, and included the Marquis of Ormonde, the Marquis of Waterford, the Earl of Bessborough, and Mr. Kavanagh, M.P. Mr. Meredyth, the master of the hunt, related the circumstances which had led to the calling of the meeting, and added that he had held a conversation with a Mr. George Reade on the subject of the recent outrages, and that Mr. Reade had told him that if he would give up the mastership the annoyance would cease. On asking Mr. Reade if he was authorised to make that proposal, the reply was that he was “partly authorised.” Resolutions were adopted rejecting all proposals for negotiation on any such basis as that proposed by Mr. Reade, and expressing the utmost confidence in Mr. Meredyth. The committee of the club were also empowered to sell the hounds if no satisfactory arrangement could be come to. Many of the members expressed their regret that a necessity should arise for discontinuing the hunt, as such a result would tend to increase absenteeism, already so much complained of by the people.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Forcade Ministry has at last resigned, and the Emperor has accepted their resignation. On Monday his Majesty wrote to M. Emile Ollivier informing him of the fact, and requesting him to form a Cabinet faithfully representing the majority of the Legislative Body, and resolved to carry out in the letter as well as in the spirit the Senatus Consultum of Sept. 8. The following is given as a list of the new Ministry:—Ollivier, Interior; La Guerrière, Foreign Office; Magne, Finance; Lebeuf, War; Genouilly, Marine; Bourgeau, Instruction; Dupuy de Lôme, Public Works; Parieu, Minister without portfolio.

The Emperor has addressed a letter to the outgoing Minister, M. de Forcade la Roquette, stating that it is not without regret that he has accepted his resignation and that of his colleagues. “It is a pleasure to me,” the Emperor adds, “to acknowledge the services you have rendered to the country and myself by faithfully carrying out the latest reforms, and by maintaining public order with firmness.” M. Haussmann, it is stated, has also resigned his office of Prefect of the Seine.

It is pointed out in the *Séicle* that the Chamber, which consists of 292 deputies, is divided into four groups—the Right, with 83 members; the Right Centre, with 129; the Left Centre, with 43; and the Left, with 37. “None of these groups constitutes by itself the majority,” adds the *Séicle*; “it will be absolutely necessary for M. Emile Ollivier, leader of the Right Centre, to detach from the Left Centre and the Right a certain number of members disposed to rally round him. We do not doubt that he will succeed with the Right, but with the Left Centre the rallying seems more difficult. Reduced to the forces of the Right Centre alone, augmented, perhaps, by a small reinforcement from the Arcadians, will M. Emile Ollivier be able to advance as firmly as though supported upon a real and unquestionable majority? We think not; for this very simple reason, that the majority of the Legislative Body, the issue of official candidatures, is vivified in its origin, and badly represents the true majority of the country.”

The extraordinary session of the Chambers having been declared closed, and the ordinary session opened, M. Schneider was, on Tuesday, re-elected President of the Legislative Body, having received 190 out of 230 votes. The Marquis de Talhouet, M. Chevadier de Valdrôme, Baron Jerome David, and Count Napoleon Daru were elected Vice-Presidents. M. Schneider, on taking his seat as President, said that the Emperor's letter to M. Ollivier might be looked upon as accomplishing a pacific revolution. “It affords,” he added, “the noble spectacle of a Sovereign relinquishing a portion of his powers while continuing to enjoy the confidence of the people. In the face of such an act all prejudices should die away, division diminish or disappear, and political hostility cease to exist.” The Chamber, M. Schneider said, had been invested with the powers of a Parliamentary régime; and it was called upon to set an example, and to prove, by the moderation and the dignity of its discussions, that it has solely at heart the welfare of the nation. The Legislative Body then adjourned till the 10th of January.

ROME.

Monday being the fête day of the Pope, the officers of the Pontifical army presented their congratulations to his Holiness. The Pope, in reply, expressed his confidence that the Ecumenical Council would dissipate darkness and give to the world peace and prosperity; and, according to the telegram, “refuted the argument of those who maintain that the Pope should have no army because Christ had none.”

A bull, entitled “Latae Sententiae,” has been published defining offences that shall be deemed to incur excommunication, and specifying those that can only be absolved by the Pope; the gist of which is that his Holiness practically assumes to himself the sole right of pardon, and withdraws almost all power in these matters from the Bishops and clergy—that is, this bull exalts the personal authority of the Pope at the expense of the Church generally.

The General Congregation of the Council held on Tuesday named the members elected to examine the questions connected with religious orders. The discussion of draughts of canon law relative to matters of faith afterwards commenced. These proposed measures contain no mention of the question of the Pope's personal infallibility; but they utter a formal condemnation of unorthodox doctrine and of independent philosophy and morals. The Court of Rome, we are further informed, still maintains the principle that the Fathers of the Council have not the right of discussing the statutes laid down for the regulation of their deliberations. The Pope has expressed himself in this sense to several prelates.

AUSTRIA.

A Vienna telegram states that, according to advices received there from Cattaro, the insurgents of the district of Braciani gave up their arms on Monday and swore allegiance and loyalty to the Emperor. The meeting with the disaffected of the Knoscini district, which was to have been held at Greben for the purpose of negotiating terms of submission, could not take place on account of the inclemency of the weather, only twelve persons being present, and General Prince Auersperg postponed the meeting till another time.

RUSSIA.

Several changes are announced in the diplomatic representation of Russia abroad. The Minister at Brussels, Prince Orloff, has been appointed Minister at Vienna, and is replaced at the Belgian Court by Count Bludoff, at present Minister at the Court of Saxony. The latter post is filled by Councillor von Kotzebue, hitherto acting as Chargé-d'Affaires at Carlsruhe. M. Sabourovoff, Councillor of the Embassy in London, goes to the Baden capital; and Baron von Uxkull-Gyllenband, Councillor of Legation at Vienna, is appointed Minister at Florence.

TURKEY.

An official announcement of the definitive settlement of the dispute between Turkey and Egypt has been made by the Grand Vizier to the foreign representatives in Constantinople. The diplomatic body has replied to the communication by congratulating the Porte upon this result, as being in conformity with the wishes of the Powers and the interests of the two parties.

THE UNITED STATES.

President Grant has issued an order for the re-establishment of the supremacy of military rule in Georgia, under General Terry. The President has also published a proclamation announcing, in eulogistic terms, the death of ex-Secretary Stanton. General Reynolds has rejected the votes of two counties in Texas, and has announced that Mr. Davis (Radical) has been elected Governor.

Secretary Fish has, by direction of the President, sent a circular to the Ministers accredited to maritime Powers, instructing them to propose the participation of those Powers in a convention in the form of a treaty relative to ocean cables. He suggests as bases, reciprocity of concessions, protection of cables during war, and immunity of despatches from Government espionage.

The Fenian Brotherhood in New York are said to be preparing another expedition against the British possessions in America. At the O'Neil head-quarters (says the *New York Times*) they have a large number of what they state to be needle-guns, and many of their officers are travelling among the circles in the adjacent districts on secret service. This time, it is added, they mean to keep their future movements entirely to themselves, to prevent premature disclosures and the interference of the authorities.

CANADA.

The Government of the Dominion, in consequence of the resistance encountered in taking possession of the Hudson Bay territory, will not pay the purchase-money until next spring. It is expected that Governor McDougall will be recalled and that Vice-Chancellor Sprague will be appointed Chancellor of Ontario, vice Mr. Vankougenet, deceased. The insurgents of the Red River have issued a declaration of independence, in which they protest against

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their transfer to Canada without their consent. They further declare that they will resist it, and assert that the Provisional Government is the only lawful authority in the territory. In conclusion, they state that they are willing to negotiate with Canada to secure a good Government and assure the prosperity of the people.

JAPAN.

The Mikado has granted a full pardon to the Tycoon and Prince Aidsio. The Japanese Government has ratified a treaty with the representatives of the foreign Powers, prohibiting foreigners from trading in the unopened ports. A plot to assassinate the British Minister has been discovered among the Japanese, but has been frustrated.

AUSTRALIA.

The people of New South Wales and Victoria appear to be strongly opposed to the Colonial Congress which it is proposed to hold in London next February. In the Parliaments of both those colonies the subject has been brought forward, and with the same result in each case. The projected Congress is altogether repudiated, and the promoters of it rebuked in no measured terms for their unauthorized interference in colonial affairs.

The following news of a terrible massacre at Fiji has been received in Melbourne:—"A Mr. Lattin, who, it was said, was formerly a storekeeper in Melbourne, had shipped about 280 natives on board the French barque Morea. Their ultimate destiny was, it is believed, Queensland; but it seems that the islanders rose en masse, and mercilessly killed every white man on board with the exception of the mate. They then jumped overboard, with the intention of swimming on shore, but only about thirty reached the land, 258 having, it is supposed, been drowned."

AFFAIRS IN NEW ZEALAND.

THE New Zealand correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Wellington on Nov. 1, says that the tone of events in that colony during the month had been most satisfactory, and that the feeling of returning confidence had continued to deepen and extend. This was in a great measure owing to the rebels having sustained a severe defeat. On Oct. 4 Colonel M'Donnell, with the friendly natives and one hundred constabulary, attacked Te-Kooti's redoubt and took it by storm. Colonel M'Donnell says in his report:—"Our natives, stimulated by jealousy of each other, were ripe for anything, and advanced with a steadiness and deliberation such as I have never seen equalled. The Wanganui, under Kemp, set the example by charging up the face of the hill on which stood the redoubt, closely followed by the Ngatikahungas and Arawas. Though exposed to the galling fire of the enemy, who fought well, they had in a short time taken the trenches by the front and right of the redoubt, undermining the parapet, jumping up and firing into it." Twenty-seven rebel bodies were found inside the redoubt and trench, and ten more in the field. The wounded, among whom were several of the women, with children to the number of two or three and twenty in all, were captured. Te-Kooti was wounded, but managed to make good his escape. Colonel M'Donnell had ever since been on his track, although compelled, until Oct. 29, to remain idle by snow and rain. A number of the prisoners taken some months ago on the west coast had been tried for high treason, and sentenced to be hung, drawn, and quartered, as were those on the east coast. The prisoners sentenced to penal servitude had been sent to Otago. The resettlement of the Pantea country was going on quietly. "The telegraph wire," we are told, "is now erected from Wellington to Wanganui, the difficulty of taking it over the Kingi's lands at Otaki and its neighbourhood having been successfully surmounted by Dr. Featherston's tact and influence. It is to be continued at once to Patea, and by Christmas the road will be sufficiently formed for Cobb's coaches to extend their journey from its present limit, at Wanganui, to Carlisle, on the Patea river—a journey over the whole length of which Titokewaru's hordes not many months ago roamed at will. Titokewaru is reported to be north of Taranaki, but without following or influence." Dr. Featherston and Mr. Pell, who were to have gone to London by the present mail, to endeavour to arrange sundry matters relating to defence and finance with the Imperial Government, had been obliged to delay their departure for a month longer. Trade is stated to be reviving over the whole colony, and the speculation mania on the Auckland gold-fields is subsiding into a healthy working tone. A new field had been discovered in Nelson, promising richly.

DR. TEMPLE.—Dr. Temple was on Wednesday enthroned in Exeter Cathedral. Nearly thirty-nine years had passed since a similar ceremonial was witnessed in the city, and this, after the controversy which the Right Rev. Prelate's appointment has caused, attracted large numbers from the surrounding villages into Exeter. The Bishop was met at the east gate of the city by the Mayor and Corporation, the magistrates, the Sheriffs of Devon and Cornwall, the Mayors of the boroughs in the diocese, and the representatives of the friendly societies. The procession was afterwards joined by the Dean and Chapter. At the conclusion of the ceremony of installation Dr. Temple preached in the cathedral to an immense congregation.

DISINFECTION.—Dr. Lankester, medical officer of health, has made a report to the vestry of St. James's, Westminster, in which he states that inquiries have been made as to whether they possess any disinfecting apparatus in the parish, and suggesting that several contiguous parishes might join in erecting a common disinfecting apparatus, such as the twenty-third clause of the Sanitary Act of 1866 permits every vestry to erect in the parish. He strongly recommends that some place should be established where linen, clothes, and other household articles may be exposed to a temperature sufficient to destroy all contagion, and says that such a disinfecting chamber could be erected without difficulty in the stone-yard of the workhouse, into which steam from the baths and washhouses might be laid on for disinfecting clothes, and which might be open to the use of the whole parish. He also calls attention to the provisions of the Sanitary Act, whereby it is rendered illegal to sell furniture, clothing, or other articles from a room where there has been infectious disease, or to let a room where any person has had an infectious disease. No action was taken by the vestry in the matter.

THE IRISH LAND QUESTION.—A requisition is in course of signature throughout the country requesting an aggregate meeting of "the landed gentry, clergy, members of both Houses of Parliament, and municipal and poor-law representatives," to consider the land question. The requisition, which has already been signed by Lords Granard and Greville, by fourteen Irish members of the House of Commons, and a large number of deputy-lieutenants, justices of the peace, and poor-law guardians, declares that the requisitionists are convinced that an equitable settlement of the land question is essential to the peace and prosperity of the country; that it would tend to eradicate disaffection, promote industry, and give increased security to property. The meeting will be held in Dublin. A tenant-right demonstration was held, on Monday, in Listowel, Kerry. Nearly 20,000 were present. The O'Donoghue, in proposing the first resolution, said they wanted the land laws utterly changed, and that nothing short of fixity of tenure or a valuation of rents would satisfy the country. Resolutions were passed demanding recognition of tenant-right of occupancy at equitable rents, with compensation in case of eviction. The conduct of landlords who have served notices to quit was also vehemently denounced.

COURAGEOUS CONDUCT.—On Monday afternoon a little fellow, about four years of age, named Walter Nottage, whose parents live in a cottage at what is known as the "Back Way," Waltham Abbey, fell into the mill-stream that runs by the Baker's-entry. The accident was witnessed by a poor widow, named Ann Walters, herself the mother of six young children, who immediately jumped into the stream after the child, which she succeeded in securing. In consequence of the recent heavy rains, the stream was at the time much swollen and running very rapidly; and Mrs. Walters, with the boy in her arms, was borne along by the current, which she could not resist, for some twenty yards, when she succeeded in grasping the branch of a tree growing by the side of the stream and projecting over the water. An alarm was at once raised, and she, fortunately, was enabled to hold on to the branch until assistance arrived, when both she and the child were rescued from their perilous position, having experienced little or no injury beyond the fright and wetting. The child's own mother, who was standing near at the time of the accident, has since admitted that she could not have plunged into the stream to save it, as did Mrs. Walters. This poor widow, who so courageously risked her own life to save that of a neighbour's child, lost her husband, some two or three years since, by drowning. He was a worker at the Royal small-arms factory, Enfield Lock, and a member of the 41st Middlesex Rifles; and it was then out with that corps at Broxbourne, one Saturday evening, that he fell into the river Lea, when proceeding to the railway station, and was drowned, leaving his widow, as already intimated, with six young children, one of which was unborn.—*Waltham Abbey Telegraph*.

CORRESPONDENCE ON THE ALABAMA QUESTION.

SOME correspondence between the British and American Governments on the points in dispute between the two countries has been published. The correspondence (which fills eight columns of the daily papers) begins with a letter from Lord Clarendon to our Minister at Washington, Mr. Thornton, dated June 10 last, and concludes also with a letter from Lord Clarendon, dated Nov. 6. Mr. Motley, as soon as he arrived in London (May 31), made an unofficial call upon Lord Clarendon, when (the Foreign Minister thus describes the interview) Mr. Motley's tone was very friendly, and the diplomats met as old acquaintances. Ten days later Mr. Motley called on Lord Clarendon, by appointment, and stated that his instructions were of a most amicable character, and he had no hesitation in assuring the Foreign Secretary that the wish of the President and Government of the United States was that existing differences between the two countries should be honourably settled, and that the international relations should be placed on a firm and satisfactory basis.

I assured Mr. Motley (says Lord Clarendon) of the perfect reciprocity of feeling that existed on the part of her Majesty's Government. Mr. Motley then proceeded to say that he was empowered to conclude a treaty on the naturalisation question upon the principle recorded in the protocol signed by Lord Stanley and Mr. Reverdy Johnson; and I expressed my fear that some delay must take place in this matter, not from any unwillingness on the part of her Majesty's Government to settle the question, but from the great pressure of business now before Parliament, which would make it almost impossible to pass a bill in the course of the present Session which affected such various interests and was certain to lead to protracted discussion. The delay, however, was not likely, I thought, to be of such importance to the Government of the United States, as their main object—viz., the renunciation of our old doctrine of indefeasible allegiance—had been achieved by the protocol, with the general approbation, to the best of my belief, of the British public.

Mr. Motley proceeded to tell Lord Clarendon why the Reverdy Johnson treaty had been rejected. The reasons were in substance that it was concluded when President Johnson and his Government were virtually out of office; that it embraced only individual and not national claims, and that it settled no principle. President Grant was of opinion, Mr. Motley added, that the time was not yet come to settle the question; the public feeling on the matter was too strong. Lord Clarendon replied that he was in no hurry, though he did not think the feeling in England was very strong on the subject, and he thought it would be very objectionable indefinitely to postpone a settlement, and to treat the matter as a quarrel held in suspension, to be revived only when circumstances might make it the interest of either party to do so. Mr. Motley assured his Lordship that there was no fear of that, and "laid great stress upon the opportunity that would be afforded to two great maritime nations like England and the United States to lay down some general principles of international law, particularly with reference to the rights and duties of neutrals in war, that might be of advantage to the civilised world."

Nothing further took place till Oct. 15, when Mr. Motley waited on Lord Clarendon again, and read to him a long despatch (a copy was sent the next day) from Mr. Fish, dated Sept. 25. Mr. Fish, beginning with the remark that the President thought sufficient time had elapsed "for the subsidence of any excitement or irritation," proceeds to an elaborate statement of the American case, or, as he phrases it, "a dispassionate exposition of the just causes of complaint of the Government of the United States against that of Great Britain." This, Mr. Motley is informed, is placed in his hands "for appropriate use." The document starts with a detailed history of the beginning of the secession movement in the United States and of the war which followed. At the time the war began the two countries, Mr. Fish observes, were at peace, and the Government of Washington had no reason to think that the good feeling which prevailed in England towards the United States would be affected by domestic insurrection in the territory of the latter, least of all could they expect that English sympathy would be excited on behalf of an insurrection whose avowed object was "the secure establishment of a perpetual and exclusive slave-holding republic. In such a contest the Government of the United States was entitled to expect the earnest goodwill, sympathy, and moral support of Great Britain." The recognition of the belligerency of the Secessionists was, therefore, received in America "with painful astonishment." It is not denied that it is perfectly competent for England, as for any other Power, to determine, on its own responsibility, when to recognise the belligerency of insurgents or (in case of successful insurrection) their independence; but what the United States complain of is that belligerency was recognised before it existed. Besides other circumstances, "that which conclusively shows the unreasonable precipitancy of the measure (the Queen's proclamation of neutrality) is the fact that on that day, May 13, 1861, and, indeed, until long afterwards, not a battle had been fought between the insurgents and the United States, nor a combat even, save the solitary and isolated attack on Fort Sumter. Did such a bare commencement of hostilities constitute belligerency? Plainly not." At the time the Queen's proclamation was issued the assumed belligerency of the insurgents was a fiction—a war on paper only, not in the field—like a paper blockade, the anticipation of supposed belligerency to come, but which might never have come if not thus anticipated and encouraged by the Queen's Government. It is true that other European nations recognised the belligerency of the Confederates, "but Great Britain alone had translated a measure, indefinite of itself, into one of definite wrong to the United States, as evinced by the constant and efficient aid in ships and munitions of war which she furnished the Confederates and in the permission or negligence which enabled Confederate cruisers from her ports to prey on the commerce of the United States. Great Britain alone had founded on that recognition a systematic maritime war against the United States; and this to effect the establishment of a slave Government." It is explained at the close of Mr. Fish's despatch that the President does not propose any practical measure at present; he neither discusses what we ought to pay by way of reparation for the wrong we have done nor what changes we ought to make in our laws. "All these are subjects of future consideration which, when the time for action shall come, the President will consider with sincere and earnest desire that all differences between the two nations may be adjusted amicably and compatibly with the honour of each, and to the promotion of future concord between them; to which end he will spare no efforts within the range of his supreme duty to the right and interests of the United States." Mr. Fish adds that his Government will be ready, whenever her Majesty's Ministers shall think the proper time has come for a renewed negotiation, to entertain any proposition which that Government shall think proper to present, and to apply to such proposition earnest and sincere wishes and endeavours for a solution, honourable and satisfactory to both countries.

Lord Clarendon, on Nov. 6, forwarded to Mr. Thornton a copy of Mr. Fish's despatch, with a long memorandum, which he explains is not official, replying in detail to the American Secretary's arguments. In his official reply the Foreign Secretary reciprocates the desire of the President for a friendly settlement. But (he proceeds to say)—

Her Majesty's Government had, indeed, hoped that, by the convention which, under the instructions of his Government, and with their full and deliberate concurrence, Mr. Reverdy Johnson signed with me, on Jan. 14 of the present year, all correspondence between the two Governments had been brought to an end, and that all matters in dispute would be referred for settlement to a dispassionate tribunal. With a view to that result, her Majesty's Government had in some degree departed from their deliberate convictions and declared resolute; they agreed to the mode of settlement proposed by the United States Government, which was more than once, in the course of that negotiation, modified to meet the wishes of that Government; but they did so willingly, because they thought the restoration of a good understanding between Great Britain and the United States might well be purchased by concessions kept within bounds, and not inconsistent with the honour of this country.

Her Majesty's Government learned with deep concern that the Senate of the United States, in the exercise of the powers unquestionably conferred upon it by the Constitution, repudiated the acts of the Government under

whose authority that convention was concluded; and, by rejecting it, had left open the whole controversy between the two countries, and had definitely prolonged the uncertainty attendant on such a state of things.

Her Majesty's Government regret no less sincerely that the President of the United States concurs with the Senate in disapproving that treaty; but their regret would in some degree be diminished if Mr. Fish had been authorised to indicate some other means of adjusting the questions between the two countries, which, as long as they remain open, cannot be favourable to a cordial good understanding between them. This, however, Mr. Fish has not been empowered to do; but he expresses the readiness of the President to consider any proposal emanating from this country. It is obvious, however—and Mr. Fish will probably, on reflection, admit—that her Majesty's Government cannot make any new proposition, or run the risk of another unsuccessful negotiation, until they have information more clear than that which is contained in Mr. Fish's despatch respecting the basis upon which the Government of the United States would be disposed to negotiate.

An extraordinary importance has been given to the Queen's proclamation of neutrality, which, according to Mr. Fish, "recognised the insurgents as a belligerent Power, and raised them to the same level of neutral right as the United States." Without entering at present into the question whether the proclamation did give the South any rights which it had not acquired by actual events, it is worth while looking at the way in which each party deals with an open and notorious fact, which anyone could ascertain from a file of English newspapers. Mr. Fish has, no doubt, found some authority for stating that the determination to acknowledge the belligerent character of the Confederate States, which was announced by Lord John Russell in the House of Commons on May 6, 1861, was made "four days prior to the arrival in London of any official knowledge of the President's proclamation of April 19, 1861, by reference to which the Queen's proclamation has since been defended;" but his countrymen may now easily convince themselves how untrustworthy is such information, and how much it needs verification by more exact inquiry. Lord Clarendon simply states the fact that the President's proclamation of blockade was published on April 19; that intelligence of its issue reached London by telegraph on May 2; that it was published in the newspapers on the 3rd; that Mr. Seward speaks of its having "reached London on May 3;" that a copy was received officially from her Majesty's Consul at New York on the 5th; that it was communicated officially by Mr. Dallas on the 11th, with a copy of a circular from Mr. Seward to the United States Ministers abroad calling attention to it, and stating the probability that attempts would be made to "fit out privateers in the ports of England for the purpose of aggression on the commerce of the United States." Now the Queen's proclamation was issued on May 15, so that it is plain that before the 6th, when Lord John Russell spoke, and *à fortiori* before the 15th, when the proclamation appeared, the British Government had received, both unofficially and officially, the information on which it acted.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT RAILWAY.

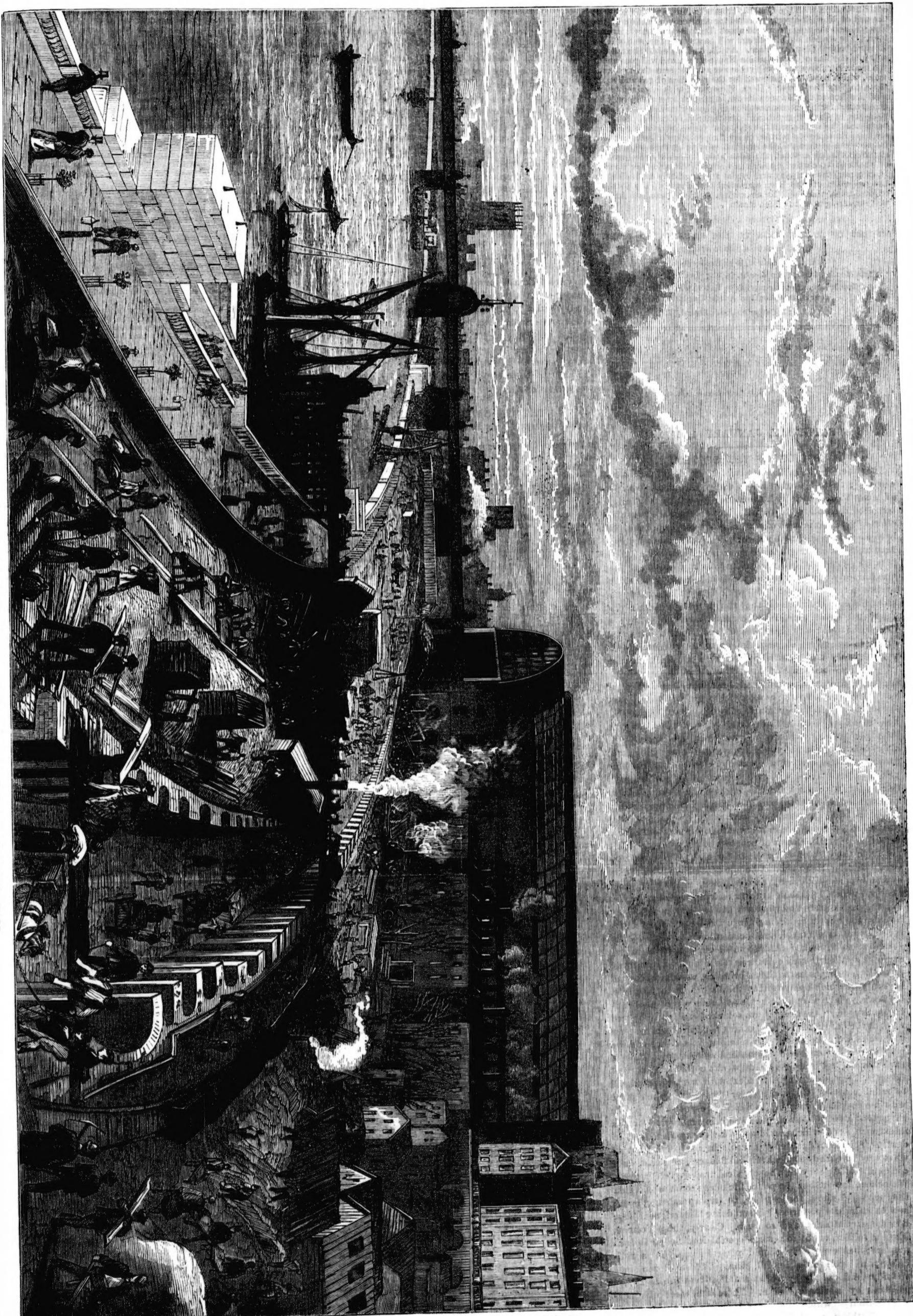
THE Metropolitan Railway, as originally planned by the engineers, Mr. Fowler, and Mr. T. M. Johnson, was designed—and as far as we are aware it is still in contemplation that their scheme shall be carried out in its entirety—to leave the Metropolitan Railway between the Edgware-road and Paddington stations, and running round by Notting-hill, Kensington, Brompton, Chelsea, and the City, to rejoin the same line—prolonged from Farringdon-street under the name of the Metropolitan Extension—somewhere about Trinity-square or the Tower, thus completing what is, we believe, generally described as "the inner circle." The western portion of the line, from Paddington to Westminster, has been completed some time, and trains began to run to the station at the western end of Westminster Bridge so long ago as on Christmas Day last year. Other sections of the line had been opened some time before. The portion with which we have now to deal is that which communicates between Westminster and the City. Although, as we have already intimated, it is intended that the line shall eventually join the Metropolitan extension at the Tower, when that extension shall have been carried out, the works at present contemplated, and for which contracts have been entered into, do not extend beyond Southwark Bridge; and the City terminus, according to the plans now being acted upon, would be in Queen-street. Lately it has been suggested that it would be a great convenience to a large proportion of those who are likely to travel by this line if it could be carried to some more central position, and it has been proposed that a branch or diversion of the line should be carried from New Earl-street under the new Mansion House-street to that great central space between the Exchange, the Bank of England, and the Mansion House, which may naturally be regarded as, for many purposes, the heart of the City. The length of the line, from Westminster to Queen-street (Southwark Bridge), will be two miles; that of the branch from Earl-street, or Fish-street-hill, to the Mansion House, a quarter of a mile. Practically speaking, the whole of this distance will be in tunnel. There will, of course be openings at some of the stations; and nearly opposite Adelphi-terrace there will be, on the Embankment, three small pieces of open cutting; but these are very trifling variations from the general character of the work, and the line may, with almost complete accuracy, be described as altogether an underground one. In the construction of the tunnel two methods will be adopted, according to the circumstances under which the line has to be made. Where there is sufficient height between the level of the rails and that of the street under which the railway has to be carried it will pass through an ordinary brick tunnel 25 ft. wide and 15 ft. 9 in. high. Where room cannot be found for a structure of these dimensions, another method of construction has to be resorted to. The sides of the tunnel will consist of solid walls of brickwork, consisting of piers and arches, the opposite piers, each 5 ft. 6 in. wide, will be connected by heavy cast-iron girders, and between each pair of these will be turned brick arches so as to complete the roofing. This part of the line will be the same width as the other (25 ft.), but the height from the level of the rails will be only 13 ft. 6 in. instead of 15 ft. 9 in. Immediately after leaving the Westminster Bridge station, which it will be generally known is an open one, there is a stretch of brick tunnelling about 360 ft. in length; but thence along the Embankment to Blackfriars Bridge the work will, almost without exception, consist of these brick walls and girder roof. Of course, it is necessary to obtain for these walls a solid and unexceptionable foundation, and they are carried down to the gravel which overlies the London clay. The depth at which this stratum is found varies much along the line of the Embankment, and in some instances it has been found necessary to dig down as deep as 41 ft. The method of building these walls is as follows:—Two trenches, each 7 ft. 6 in. wide, are dug along the sides of the proposed railway—25 ft. apart—to the necessary depth. The lower part of these trenches, up to 2 ft. below the level of the rails, is filled in with concrete, and upon this solid foundation the brick walls are afterwards reared. When these have reached the necessary height the girders are placed upon the piers, the brick arches are turned between them, and the tunnel may be said to be complete. It is, however, still full of soil, no more earth having been removed than was necessary to enable the workmen to fix the girders; and this has afterwards to be excavated. To an inexperienced mind it might at first sight appear to be a simpler plan to excavate the earth first, and then build the walls and roof in the cutting; but the retention of the soil saves an enormous expense in heavy timber work, and at the same time avoids considerable risk which necessarily arises from its employment; and the advantages which arise from these two sources more than compensate for any additional trouble which may attend the subsequent removal of the earth. In the case of the brick tunnelling in the same way, the soil, with the exception of what must be excavated to make room for the walls, is allowed to remain practically undisturbed until the arch is completed. Upon the embankment there will be two stations, each 300 ft. long, and



THE PANTOMIMES: "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST," AT DRURY LANE THEATRE.



THE PANTOMIMES: "THE YELLOW DWARF," AT COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.



WORKS ON THE THAMES EMBANKMENT RAILWAY: FROM WATERLOO BRIDGE, LOOKING WESTWARD.

both covered in—one at Hungerford, which will have a direct communication with the Charing-cross terminus, and the other at the end of Norfolk-street, intended for the accommodation of the Temple, and the neighbourhood about Temple-bar and Chancery-lane. The station at Blackfriars will be an open one, and will be situated behind Chatham-place. At St. Andrew's-hill the railway will join the line of New Mansion House-street, and will pass under the roadway, above the low-level sewer and between the two subways, which have been prepared for the reception of gas and water pipes, to New Earl-street. Here, if permission is obtained to extend the line to the Mansion House, a commodious station will be constructed for the accommodation of those whose places of business are in Cannon-street and its vicinity. This station will necessarily be underground, but special provision will be made for securing its complete ventilation by the provision of hollow spaces between the girders and the external portion of the roof, the construction of open areas at the sides, and, if necessary, the erection of shafts to be carried up by the walls of the adjoining houses. If, however, the company are, by the action of any authorities or the operation of the law, compelled to adhere rigidly to their original plan, there will be no station at this point, but the line will run straight on to Queen-street.

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infamous. We never happened to hear a sermon upon the subject; but the topic is a very proper one for any teacher of duty. If the man who went from Jerusalem to Jericho had happened to come up with the thieves whilst they were beating the Samaritan, he would have been bound to help him if he could do it without too great a risk.

As we enter upon this New Year, we may well note the unconquerable tendency of the human mind to go on trying to better things for everybody. That there is no such thing as progress has been abundantly proved—to the satisfaction of cynics and sluggards; but the sublime inconsistency of human nature disdains to notice the proof. There are bad people, apathetic people, lazy people, and unbelieving people; but mankind, in the lump, has an immortal knack of flying at the throat of anything it holds to be unjust or unsatisfactory. It has been made out in the most interesting manner that we never succeed in actually lessening the total of human pain, and that we only exchange one evil for another; but the argument does not appear to bite, and the world keeps on attempting to "progress," just as young people maintain the habit of falling in love and married folk continue to become parents. There is not a reader of this newspaper who would not think it worth while to try and "better" himself if he could; and we hope for the credit of our own influence that there is not one who would object to try and "better" the condition of other people. These curious facts are evidently the result of some very powerful superstition, and we very much doubt whether it will not be as strong and as influential next New-Year's Day as it is this.

THE OPPOSITION TO DR. TEMPLE.

THE opponents of Dr. Temple's appointment to the see of Exeter have got up a petition in support of their views, and a "London Clergyman" makes the following comments on this document and on the way in which it has been concocted:—

The opponents of Dr. Temple, headed by Bishop Trower, have spent several weeks, and exhausted all the arts of canvassing, in obtaining signatures to a petition addressed to the two Primates and all the Bishops of England, against the consecration of Dr. Temple. The result is now lying before me, in two folio sheets and a half of printed signatures, and an analysis of the document yields the following results:—

The total number of signatures is about 1500. Of these less than 700 are clergy, and of the clergy there are probably not twenty who are known beyond their own parishes. Among the laity there are five peers—namely, the Marquis of Bristol, the Earls of Sheffield, Dartmouth, Buckinghamshire, Bandon, and Lord Fitzwalter; and ten members of the House of Commons—viz., Sir John Pakington, Mr. De Grey, Sir W. Bagge, Colonel Dyott, Mr. T. Collins, General Percy Herbert, Mr. Dinsdale, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Gore Langton, and Mr. Laslett. Beyond these I cannot find the name of any layman of note; but I find whole columns filled with the names of labourers, blacksmiths, tavern-keepers, tailors, shoemakers, hairdressers, beer-retailers, and the like, with crowds of women in the same class of life. It is evident that in many parishes the Incumbent went round and wrote down the names of his parishioners indiscriminately—young men and maidens, old men and children—just as they came. The whole list of signatures, for instance, occupies somewhat less than eighteen columns, and of these two columns are taken up with the parishioners of Bishop's Waltham. The parish of Kimbolton tells the same tale, with its long list of labourers, shoemakers, men-servants, and maid-servants. Southsea and Portsea also contribute a column of names, including a large proportion of seamen and labourers. The chaplains of gos, workhouses, and convict establishments are conspicuous for their zeal in influencing those under their charge to sign the memorial.

Do the opponents of Dr. Temple really suppose that a petition got up after this fashion, and which, after all, numbers only 1500 names, can carry any weight? Are farm-labourers, beer-retailers, seamen, shoemakers, and maid-servants fit judges of the orthodoxy of our Bishops?

But I am obliged to charge those who are responsible for this memorial with something more serious still. Small as the catalogue of names is, it would have been still smaller if it had been honestly made up. Some of the names are repeated twice, some three times over; and that this is not an accident is clear from the evident attempt to conceal the repetition. Let me give you a few examples. On page 9 is the following signature, "Philip E. Pratt, Incumbent of Minsterley, Salop." By-and-by I come across the same signature disguised thus:—"P. E. Pratt, Vicar of Minsterley, Shrewsbury." On page 3 I read the name of "Dr. Sedgwick, Great Houghton Rectory, Northampton;" on page 4, "John Sedgwick, D.D., Great Houghton Rectory, Northampton;" on page 8, "John Sedgwick, D.D., late Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxon, Rector of Great Houghton, Northants, Great Houghton Rectory, Northampton;" on page 1 I observe, "John William Radcliffe, clerk in holy orders, 38, East Southernhay, Exeter;" and on page 3 the same gentleman meets me again in this disguise, "John W. Ratcliffe, 38, East Southernhay, Exeter."

These are merely samples out of many that I have marked, and I have no doubt that there are a great many more that have escaped me. The signatures are not put in any sort of order, alphabetical or otherwise, and it is, therefore, exceedingly difficult, and in some cases impossible, to spot those which are repeated in disguises like the above.

Of course, I am far from imagining that honourable men like Dr. Pusey and others who have signed the memorial would sanction discreditable tricks of this sort; but they owe it to themselves to examine into the matter. The memorial is signed "W. J. Trower, D.D. (Bishop), chairman." Bishop Trower has thus made himself responsible for the bona fides of all the signatures, and I call upon him, therefore, for an explanation. As it stands, the affair looks rather ugly.

MR. GOSCHEN IN A WORKHOUSE.—On Christmas Day the President of the Poor-Law Board paid an unexpected visit to St. Marylebone Workhouse at dinner-time, in order, as he said, that he might see how the festive season was passed among the classes supported under the poor law. At the time of his visit Mr. Charles Beevor, the chairman of the guardians, and a considerable number of the guardians and ratepayers were present, assisting in the pleasant task of heightening the enjoyment of the aged and broken-down people, for whose Christmas treat special voluntary subscriptions are raised throughout this large parish. Mr. Goschen tasted some of the fare provided; and, not content with seeing the people who constitute the class tabbed as "able-bodied," requested the Governor, Mr. Douglas, to accompany him through the sick and infirm wards. The buildings devoted to night and day classes—i.e., occupied night and day—are of both old and new, so that the President had an opportunity of marking the difference between wards which were considered sufficient in bygone times, and those considered requisite at the present time, the latter being the new chronic and infirm wards erected during the last two years under Mr. Saxon Snell. Mr. Goschen stopped at many of the beds, and held conversation with the inmates. In leaving he expressed a high opinion of the manner in which the poor law was administered in this house. Mr. Goschen was invited by the St. Pancras guardians, at a deputation which waited upon him some little time since, to visit that house, but he declined.

THE REPRESENTATION OF SOUTHWARK.—The electioneering campaign in the borough of Southwark, so far as the holding of public meetings by the candidates and personal canvassing are concerned, has had a temporary cessation during the Christmas holidays, but will be immediately resumed with, it is stated by all parties, increased activity. In the meantime, there have been indications stronger than those apparent before Christmas that the three Liberal candidates before the constituency will respectively test the favour of the electors towards them by going to the poll. The committee of Sir Sydney Waterlow are so sanguine of his success that, it is stated, they will not for one moment listen to any proposition or suggestion short of his polling to the last man on the day of election. The friends of Sir Francis Lycett calculate upon his having received a large addition of strength by the retirement of Mr. Labouchere. Believing that this, in conjunction with what he could originally count upon, will be sufficient to carry him in, they have issued a declaration that "Sir Francis Lycett is the candidate who will go to the poll." On the other hand, the supporters of the "working-man candidate," Mr. Odger, are putting forward his determination to carry on his candidature to the last as a strong reason why he should be sustained by the working-men electors. Money and offers of assistance, even from the middle classes, are being daily received by his committee. Meanwhile, Colonel Marcus Beresford and his friends quietly await the action of the Liberal candidates as to a compromise among themselves, the determination of the committee being to carry their man to the poll, should the Liberals remain in their present position.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN and the Royal family distributed Christmas gifts to the children of Whippingham School, seventy-eight in number, on Christmas Eve. The gifts were laid out in the servants' hall at Osborne. On Christmas Day and on Sunday her Majesty attended Divine service at Whippingham church. The Rev. George Prothero preached the sermon on each occasion.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES and Prince Victor and Prince George of Wales left Marlborough House on Monday for Holkham, on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Leicester.

THE INFANT DAUGHTER of the Prince and Princess of Wales was christened at Marlborough House on the 24th ult. The infant Princess received the name of Maud Charlotte Mary Victoria.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH landed at Calcutta on the 22nd ult., and met with a most imposing and enthusiastic reception.

THE EX-QUEEN OF NAPLES gave birth to a daughter on the morning of the 24th ult.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES has sent a present of fifteen brace of pheasants to the Charing-cross Hospital for the inmates.

THE POPE has conferred the grand cross of Pius IX. upon Lord Petre and the Earl of D'Abigh.

CARDINAL REISACH, one of the five presidents of the Ecumenical Council, died on the 23rd ult., at Annecy, in Savoy.

THE DUCHESS OF ARGYLL is now considered to be out of danger from her late attack, and is making favourable progress towards recovery.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF TOULOUSE has refused to pass a vote of thanks to the Emperor Napoleon for his gift to the city of a statue of Marshal Niel.

THE IMPERIAL GAS COMPANY have given notice to their customers that from the 1st proxime the price of gas supplied by them will be reduced 3d. per 1000 ft.—viz., from 4s. to 3s. 9d.

LORD DE GREY has selected Sir F. Sandford, Assistant Under-Secretary of State in the Colonial Office, to succeed Mr. Lirgen as Secretary to the Committee of Council on Education.

SIX PERSONS WERE BURNED TO DEATH in a fire in a house in Sandwich-street, Burton-crescent, on the evening of Christmas Day. The victims are Mrs. Beetleson, wife of a policeman, her four children, and a little girl who was spending the evening with the family.

THE REV. MR. BICKNELL, Vicar of Salhouse and Wroxham, Norfolk, has just died very suddenly. The rev. gentleman was finishing a sermon, when he fell back in his chair and expired. He leaves a widow in delicate health, and eight young children.

AN OLD CORPORAL of the 3rd Zouaves, named Baptiste Moncel, decorated with the military medal, has written a long letter to the Duke de Bassano setting forth his peculiar qualifications to be keeper of Jocko, the Empress Eugenie's monkey—a post which he ardently desires.

THE POOR IN THE VARIOUS METROPOLITAN WORKHOUSES were, according to custom, provided on Christmas Day with dinner of roast beef, plum-pudding, and beer. The elder people had also tobacco or snuff given to them, and in some instances toys were given to the children.

A TRINITY STEAMER has taken out men and stores from Penzance for the building of a new lighthouse near Ceylon, under the superintendence of Mr. Douglas, who has lately completed the Wolf Rock lighthouse.

THE PENDLETON ROADS TRUSTEES have decided to give three months' notice to the Manchester Carriage Company to remove that portion of their tramway which traverses the Pendleton district. The trustees have further determined to oppose the application for statutory powers to lay down a tramway on other portions of the roads under their jurisdiction.

THE TRIAL OF TROPMANN for the murder of the Kinck family commenced on Tuesday. The long bill of indictment was read, to the greater part of which Tropmann listened with great indifference, but became pale and agitated when the portion relating to the inquest of the unfortunate family to Paris was read.

THE POLLING FOR THE RECTORSHIP OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY took place last week. There was a majority for Mr. Grant Duff in the Buchan and Mar nations, and for Sir William Stirling Maxwell in the Moray and Angus nations. The nations being equally divided, the Chancellor of the University (the Duke of Richmond) will have to give the casting vote. Mr. Grant Duff had a small majority in the whole number of votes.

THE RATE OF MORTALITY IN LONDON LAST WEEK was twenty-two per 1000, and in thirteen other large towns of the United Kingdom twenty-five. In the metropolis 1943 births and 1357 deaths were registered, the latter having been 212 below the average. The mean temperature during the week was 38.2, or 0.8 below the average.

A YOUNG MAN NAMED HENRY HUNT who was married at Dudley on Christmas morning, quarrelled at supper with his "best man," Henry Tandy, and the latter cut the bridegroom's throat with a knife. The young man is in a very dangerous condition. Tandy has absconded.

THE TRIBUNAL OF PRAGUE has just condemned the parish priest of Vrkovic to three months' imprisonment for *lesse majesté*. In celebrating a grand mass on the occasion of the Emperor's fete, he had not ordered to be lighted the chandeliers reserved for great ceremonies; and on being spoken to on the subject by the Governor, he replied in terms offensive to the Sovereign.

TWO ENGINES, with a snow-plough and van full of surfacemen, left Aberdeen on Tuesday morning to clear the Great North of Scotland Railway of snow. About two miles from Huntly the snow-plough broke, and both the engines were thrown down an embankment 60 ft. deep. Four men who were upon them were killed, and one escaped. The men in the van were not injured.

ONE OF THE BOYS OF H.M.S. MARS, the training-ship on the Tay, missed his footing the other day and fell overboard. A life-buoy was thrown to him, but he was too much exhausted to seize it when it came within his reach. Captain Wake, R.N., seeing this, threw off his coat and jumped from the stern-walk into the water, a leap of about 26 ft., and rescued the boy just in time to save him from being drowned.

THE VERY REV. CANON BROWNE, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Cork, has been denouncing Fenianism from the altar. While preaching on Sunday from the text, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good-will," he called upon the congregation to pray for drunkards, and for "those unfortunate young men" who, in spite of the warnings of their Bishops, had stupidly clung to that confederacy which was bringing terror, misery, and discredit on the country.

NUMEROUS ACCIDENTS occurred on Tuesday on the ornamental waters of the parks, the ice being for the most part too thin for absolute safety. In spite, however, of notices and remonstrances, vast numbers of foolhardy skaters and sliders crowded the Regent's Park lake, and towards evening, the ice being completely cut up, many persons were immersed. Fortunately, no one was drowned.

Mrs. BURDETT COUTTS gave a dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding, on Monday at noon, to 500 poor children, in the large hall of Columbia Market. At half-past five the parents of these children, to the number of 600, were entertained at tea in the same hall, which was handsomely decorated for the occasion. After tea a short address was given by the Rev. A. O. Wellsted; a fife-and-drum band, lately organised in a shoeblack brigade in the neighbourhood, played some lively airs; and then followed an entertainment consisting of conjuring and dissolving views, to which the children were again admitted.

A SHOCKING ACCIDENT happened on Monday night, on London Bridge. Two young ladies (sisters) engaged a hansom about half-past ten o'clock on the Middlesex side of the bridge, and as they were being driven towards the other side a wheel of the cab came off. Both the ladies were thrown out, though not so violently as to be seriously injured. Before, however, they could be picked up, a four-wheel cab came up, and ran over one of them. Both were conveyed to Guy's Hospital. The one who had been run over died almost immediately on arrival; the other is likely to get well.

EVAN JACOB, the father of the Welsh fasting girl, surrendered himself to the Coroner, Mr. George Thomas, at Carmarthen, on Monday, and was bound over to appear at the next assizes to take his trial for the manslaughter of his daughter, Sarah Jacob. It is supposed the case will not be investigated by the magistrates, before whom no proceedings will be taken.

A SHOCKING AFFAIR is reported from Cheltenham. The shop of a grocer named Weiler not being opened on Wednesday morning, the door was burst open at about eleven in the forenoon, and the unfortunate man and his wife were found in their bed-room—the latter dead and the former dying. A pan of charcoal explained the matter; and, as they had been heard to complain of cold, it is probable that the occurrence was accidental. The man died without being able to give any explanation.

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT and Monday night the casuals arriving at the Kempton-lane station were agreeably astonished at being informed, after receiving their usual ticket for a night's lodging, that they could have a pint of hot spiced ale and about half a pound of plum cake if they liked. It is needless to say that not one out of some eighty men, women, and children declined, and they were each directed, with a pass ticket, to a tavern adjacent to the station, where they were duly supplied with the cake and ale. The cost of this treat was defrayed by a tradesman in the neighbourhood.

MESSRS. FAY, LORING, LYMAN, AND BURNHAM, four of the Harvard crew in the late boat race, have written to the *Times* disclaiming any responsibility for an article which appears in *Harper's Monthly Magazine* for December, professing to put the story of the race "in the light in which it is regarded by the actors themselves." The writers add:—"We wish to say that we received the best of treatment from the English people, and were fairly beaten in the race. The only member of the crew who does not sign this paper, Mr. Simmons, is in Europe, and we have not had time to procure his signature."



SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1870.

TOPICS OF THE SEASON.

IN spite of the abuses to which holiday leisure—and especially that of Christmas—is every year put, it is impossible not to be struck with the steady growth of what might be called the holiday movement. Not only are the organised efforts for the promotion of early closing every day of the week becoming more and more active: it is plain that employers of various kinds either grant or their own good-will a longer breathing-time at "festive seasons" to the employed than was formerly common, or else yield it because it would be useless to try and insist upon work from subordinates who have made up their minds that they ought to have a rest. Last year there were, in effect, four days of holiday at Christmas-time; and there was such a frightful amount of drunkenness going on that the superfine reviewers—who might justly and naturally have been shocked, as other people were—made use of the fact as a handle for grinding away afresh at their usual cynical commonplaces. Yet this year the shopkeepers have, with very few exceptions, kept their shutters up on Boxing Day; so that "Christmas" has, in effect, been a three-days' holiday. Besides this, largely-increasing numbers of tradesmen are agreeing to close their shops entirely on Sundays, and everything looks towards the conquest of a greater degree of rest for busy people in trade than was ever dreamt of as possible until lately; for it is quite a mistake, in spite of all our talk about "merry England," to suppose that people had more holidays in the Middle Ages than they have now. One effect of this gradual extension of the movement for more rest will be that before long certain classes of people who have been hitherto but little thought of will come in for a share of consideration. Among these should be mentioned—and with deep sympathy, too—postmen, omnibus-men, railway servants, and policemen. All these are overworked; and that implies not only exhaustion and whatever demoralisation follows it, but also their exclusion from their just share of opportunities for religious, intellectual, and social culture.

It were to be wished that some of our increased leisure could be applied to such culture as tends to foster manliness. A week never passes without bringing us some story of brutality in which no bystander thinks proper to interfere. On Boxing Day, in a public-house at Leeds, a poor unoffending plasterer, "on tramp," was kicked to death by two men, in the presence of several others, neither of whom seems to have raised a finger till the mischief was done, and the poor wretch lay on the floor smashed and bloody. Now, it is not among the brutalised classes alone that this sort of thing is always occurring. Readers with memories will call to mind cases of the same order that have taken place within a couple of months, in which "respectable" people have stood aloof while some one was being murdered, or was in extreme peril which could only be expected to end in death. This is undoubtedly a result in part of a want of what may be called physical self-confidence; and that want comes of a deficiency in the physical training we receive. We believe the drill of the police includes exercises in which they are taught how, for instance, to trip up another man; how to make him powerless without doing him serious injury; how to parry attacks, and so forth. Clearly, the policeman, like the soldier, ought to possess special knowledge in such matters; but everybody should possess some. It is ridiculous, as well as shameful, that half a dozen men should stand quietly by whilst a fellow-creature is kicked to death by a single ruffian. There are cases of "non-intervention" which Bentham proposed to make criminal. Nothing could justify this; but we can all endeavour to do something towards creating a public opinion which shall make inhuman apathy of this kind

THE LOUNGER.

THE directors of Overend, Gurney, and Co. have escaped; as everybody, I suppose, expected they would. They were indicted for conspiracy to defraud, than which nothing is more difficult to prove. Moreover, the case of the prosecutor was, to say the least of it, badly managed. That, however, does not much matter. If counsel had changed sides the verdict would have been the same. The Lord Chief Justice, though, thinks that the trial will do good. At the end of his charge to the jury, he, like the old Puritans in their sermons, draws "lessons of use," and, amongst others, this: he hopes that it will be a warning not only to our merchants, but also to the public. "I think," he says, "it may be not without its influence on the rest of society. There can be no doubt that the spirit of speculation and gambling has taken deep root in the minds of all classes of the community. Those who were wont to be satisfied with moderate profits and safe investments seem now to be led away by the spirit of greed," &c.; and thus we are "to learn from this case that it is unsafe to embark in enterprises of which we cannot comprehend the scope, and the management of which we cannot control"—that is, all joint-stock enterprises whatever: railroads, joint-stock banks, limited or unlimited; navigation companies, &c.; for if none of these can outsiders understand the scope—or, at all events, they cannot control the management. Here is sweeping advice. It is the same that Gladstone gave last Session, when the case of Overend, Gurney, and Co. came before the House, which was received with a perfect hurricane of cheers; and I remember, too, that after that speech I went home; and, as I smoked my pipe, I speculated upon what would happen if the advice were to be generally acted upon. "By George!" said I, mentally, "what a crash there would be if every man and woman who owns shares in companies, 'the scope of which they cannot understand, and the management of which they cannot control,' were incontinent to sell them!" "Well," said I, "it is a good thing that we have got railroads in such numbers, telegraph companies, &c., for if we had them not and the advice of these sages were to be acted upon, we could not get them now." But, happily, the advice will not be taken. The men who give it won't act upon it. Gladstone held, at the time he spoke, a great deal of debenture stock of railroads, the management of which he cannot control, and he will be content to hold it; and it is very likely that the Lord Chief Justice himself does not confine his investments entirely to the amiable Three per Cents. No doubt gambling at cards or in shares is bad; but the investors in Overend, Gurney, and Co. were, it is notorious, in the main not gamblers, but bona fide investors. "Yes; but they were influenced by greed." Well, greed is an ugly word. Say they were influenced by a desire to get more interest for their money than they can get in the funds. You may say, if you like, that they ought not to be so influenced; but consider what would happen if this desire did not exist. No great enterprise could be carried out, no railroads, no shipping companies; and Consols would not pay two per cent. The truth is that this "greed" is the mainspring of all our enterprise, and that the directors of Overend, Gurney, and Co. have by their imprudence—not to use a stronger term—done more to crush enterprise than all the other rotten companies put together. The investors in the Overend-Gurney Company surely deserve more pity than blame.

Mr. Dodson, member for East Sussex and chairman of the Committee of the whole House, delivered last week a lecture to the Liberal Registration Society at Brighton on "International Policy." The lecture is reported in the *Brighton Guardian*. I have read it, and have to say of it that it is a very useful lecture, and must have been to the Liberal Registration Society exceedingly interesting and instructive. It is pleasant, and a good sign of the times, to hear a Whig politician expounding and enforcing the non-intervention policy, and shivering to pieces "balance of power," maintenance of our national prestige, and other old Whig and Tory idols. I ventured to prophesy, when Palmerston died, that we should see strange changes, but I hardly expected to see this so soon. Though the lecture is instructive it is not original; all that is good in it may be found in Richard Cobden's political writings and speeches. Well, that was perhaps inevitable, for in truth Mr. Cobden exhausted the subject. But ought not Mr. Dodson to have acknowledged his obligation to Mr. Cobden? nay, even if the lecturer had not read Cobden's works—an almost impossible supposition—surely he ought to have mentioned with honour the great apostle of non-intervention, who, from his first appearance in the political arena, as "a Manchester Manufacturer" down to the very last year of his life, through evil report and good, never ceased to preach this doctrine.

So thought Mr. White, Brighton's senior member, and, in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, he thus gently rebuked him for the omission:—

Mr. J. White, M.P., said that, in moving the best thanks of the meeting to their respected friend, the Liberal representative of this division of the county, he was sure they would join him most cordially. But he might be permitted to say, much as had been the pleasure he had derived from the admirable lecture they had heard—the thoughtful, philosophic survey of international policy which the honourable gentleman had given—yet he would forgive him (Mr. W.) for saying that he should have been still more thankful if he had spoken plainly of the deep debt of gratitude we owe for the creation of that sound and healthy public opinion—which the lecture was a conspicuous manifestation—to the earnest teaching and lifelong labour of the worthiest of our Sussex worthies—Richard Cobden (loud cheers). If that good man had been spared, his heart would have rejoiced that in the principal town of his native county one of its representatives should have given utterance to the sentiments he had. This was exceedingly well-timed. Indeed, the whole speech—which, of course, you cannot find room for here—is very good. Well, at the close of the meeting Mr. Dodson had to acknowledge the vote of thanks, and I turned to his final speech, confident that in that he would, upon this hint, have confessed his fault and made the *amende honorable*; but, no! he maintained an obstinate, and I had almost said a sullen, silence. This, to me, is quite unaccountable. But it must be confessed that Mr. Dodson is not singular. I remember how Lord Stanley talked Cobden for half an hour in the House—almost the *ipissima verba* of the illustrious statesman—without acknowledgment. And I thought of Disraeli's beautiful words, uttered in Parliament when Cobden died. "There are some men," said the member for Bucks, "although they are not present, who are still members of the House, independent of dissolutions or the caprices of constituents, and even of the course of time." And here is something better still—"He, being dead, yet speaketh."

When Mr. Mathew Arnold said of an English aristocrat, "ideas he has not," of course he meant something which the mind sees clearly, not merely nebulous notions—these are common enough in all classes. When Lord John Manners said the other day that Free Trade would not do for a nation which is taxed to the amount of £70,000,000, it was a mere hazy notion, floating about in a muddled brain, in a mind—or, as Lord Westbury would say, that which the noble Lord calls a mind—utterly incapable of reasoning. Why, an intelligent boy of twelve years old might in a quarter of an hour be made to understand that the very converse of this is true. Verily, such men are like the French Bourbons, of whom it was said, "They learn nothing, and forget nothing." I suppose Lord John will air his notions in Parliament next Session. Will he get any support from his late colleagues? I do not believe a man of them will back him; and, as to Disraeli, I can fancy I see the grim, sardonic smile which one has so often seen playing faintly on his face when some foolish member of his party was exposing his folly.

But, strangely enough, here is from the United States a parallel of the noble Lord's ignorance. The editor of the *New York Tribune* (Dec. 11), after mourning over the impossibility of building iron steam-ships in the States to compete with foreign steamers, or of allowing steamers built in the Clyde or the Tyne to come to the States free of duty, launches this nostrum:—"The best way to encourage American steam-ship building is to offer and pay so many dollars per ton for every first-class ocean steam-ship that

may hereafter be built, mainly of American materials by American workmen, in American ship-yards. If those who profess a deep interest in American commerce and shipping will unite with us in asking Congress to favour this policy, we shall hope for its adoption."

I have just returned from a visit to an institution the claims of which might well receive attention at this season of the year, when so many charities appeal for public support by benevolent contributions. I do not remember to have seen its necessities urged in newspaper paragraphs; it has not, to my knowledge, arrived at the dignity of a festival at the London Tavern, and yet it has been carried on for a whole year; and ever since its foundation, by a lady and gentleman who set themselves to the work of establishing a hospital for the poor neglected little creatures of the eastern part of London, it has been achieving a large amount of usefulness by sheer force of loving energy and hopeful determination in the face of what might well have appeared to be insuperable difficulties. In January, 1868, Mr. Heckford, the house-surgeon to a great London hospital, and his young and accomplished wife, who had served as a voluntary nurse during the terrible cholera epidemic, set themselves to try what could be done for the sick and starving children of that East-End district around Shadwell and Ratcliff, in connection with which we have heard so many harrowing tales of distress and suffering. To begin with, they bought and fitted up an old house, the upper part of which was no more than a rough, disused sail-loft and store-room. Here they began with ten beds for ten little patients, supported by themselves; and, though contributions from those who sympathised with their self-denial and earnestness have increased the number of beds to forty, and have added a dispensary for women, here they reside still, in the hope that their committee will be enabled to carry on the good work in more suitable premises when the charity shall become better known and supported. Begun as an experiment, "The East London Hospital, at Ratcliff-cross," is still under the charge of its first founders; but the kindly lady who has devoted herself to the work already finds the applications so numerous that there are neither funds to support nor space to receive the little sufferers of that poverty-stricken district. I wish I could induce any of your readers with a benevolent impulse, and the means to gratify it, to take a journey from the Fenchurch-street railway station to Stepney for the purpose of calling upon Mr. and Mrs. Heckford. There is a cheerful lesson to be learnt there—a lesson on making the best of such things as we have; but behind that lesson lies a keen reproach that where the harvest is so plentiful the labourers should be so few, and that only a robust "philanthropy," with a power to shout out its own praises, should have the best chance of success.

The London Stereoscopic Company, to whom the public are all indebted for having placed within our reach the means of practically illustrating so many of the "fairy tales of science" by our own firesides, has just introduced one of the most amusing presents of the season in the shape of the guinea box of scientific toys, containing the "Chameleon Top," whose varied changes of form and infinite combinations of colours afford an endless source of amusement; the "Scientific Mystery," which gives perfectly astounding results, and many other ingenious novelties, each one of which would appear to surpass the others in cleverness.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

By the time this is in the reader's hands, I daresay the "Holy Grail, and Other Poems" will have sold 50,000 copies; the last figures I saw being 40,000. This is very satisfactory; but one or two of your contemporaries, Mr. Editor, appear to be a little bothered about the chronology of Mr. Tennyson's writings. Let me venture to present them with an exercise in the following:—

LINES BY ALFRED TENNYSON, D.C.L., POET LAUREATE.

While the gold-lily blows, and overhead
The moon of doves in immemorial elms,
Along the mountains by the winter sea,
Then said the fat-faced curate Edward Bull,
Half-naked, as if caught at once from bed,
"I am a sinner viler than you all,
Cloth'd in white samite, mystic, wonderful;
Consider, William, take a month to think;
Rise like a fountain for me, night and day,
And beat the twilight into flakes of fire,
Push off, and, sitting well in order, smile;
For what are men better than sheep or goats?"
Were not his words delicious? I a beast?

And slight Sir Robert, with his watery smile,
Of temper amorous as the first of May,
Poor lad! he died at Naples, quite worn out,
Beyond the brook, half-deep in meadow-sweet,
And nursed by mealy-mouth'd philanthropies.

"Lo, now!" said Arthur, "have ye seen a cloud,
And half cut down, a pasty costly made,
Which things appear the work of mighty gods?
I thought I lived securely as yourselves,
Nor burnt the grange, nor bus'd the milking-maid.
For I was drench'd with ooze and torn with briars;
Blessed are Bors, Launcelot, and Percivale;
Who ever saw such wild barbarians?
I made them lay their hands in mine and swear"—
He spoke, and high above I heard them blast:
"To blame, my Lord Sir Launcelot, much to blame!"

So spake the King; I knew not all he meant.

The question is, when were these lines written?

By what fatality does it happen that an explanation usually wants explaining? Last week, in noticing the *Contemporary*, I took upon myself to explain something in one of its articles ("Moral Criteria"), and, in doing so, spoke of making a supposition as bare as that of "the chemical atoms." This was a press error which I overlooked. The should have been two—"two chemical atoms."

Upon a second look at the new cover of *Good Words for the Young* I find I like it much better. Mr. Arthur Hughes makes wonderful little pictures for it, and so does Ernest Griest. But why does Mr. Hughes put that touch of the lackadaisical into so many, if not all, of his work? I suppose he cannot help it, that it is a natural mannerism which we must all accept along with his purity, sweetness, and imaginative apprehension; but it does vex one a little to see so many wry-necked people, hanging their heads as if they had the mumps. Mrs. Kate Macquoid tells a most interesting story of a little French girl who, coming to England to be taught our language, was "decolored" by the manners of the English girls, and had to go back, ill and sick-hearted, to France. The anecdote is exceedingly well told; but the moral significance of it is not sufficiently disclosed in the telling. On the one hand, the little French girl had been mistaught, both by example and precept, in her native land, or else she would not have found the mere refraining from a certain warmth of caress an act of rudeness of which she could possibly be entitled to complain; while on the other hand the "interferingness" and dictation of the English "young ladies" was odious in itself. This kind of thing is so common that one would be glad to see its essentially bestial quality heavily emphasised. Ursula Swayne had a perfect right by main force to stop Amy (page 68), for Amy was using unjust force; but Rose had not a right to insist that Ursula should not "sentimentalise" with Mimi. In one of Mr. Charles Camden's vigorous but rather coarse and worldly school sketches there was a great fault in this relation: I forgot the title, but a boy, said to be sullen, was always being teased by his schoolfellows. Now, the proper punishment for sullenness is to leave the sulker to himself; and every boy who teased this one might most righteously have been thrashed for his pains. A warm word is due to the picture of Master Ephraim Bines, jun. It is fascinatingly full of expression.

In *Good Words* major, in the last part of "Debenham's Vow," there are some very felicitous womanly touches. The story, as a whole, is rather mechanical, but at the close it improves. On page 834, at lines 15 and 16 from the bottom, there is a curious mistake, all the more noticeable that the subject need not

have been touched at all. It is impossible to deal with it here; suffice it to say that the passage is distinctly founded on a misconception.

From an announcement in *Belgravia* everybody will be glad to infer that Miss Braddon is herself again. How glad many of us would be to see this lady fulfil the promise given by some of the finer passages in her writings! If she would only choose some very simple story, a mere idyll you know; forget every lesson of the school in which she has graduated; weed her style of all approached to the tricks of the cockney school; and write a novel in one volume, I, for one, should throw up my cap with delight. She could not (it is needless to observe) write "Silas Marner" (because she has neither the requisite height nor the requisite speculative power), or "Cranford" (because her humour is not childlike and gently lambent); but she might do something that would not be ephemeral, and that should not be merely very clever patchwork. Nay, I would undertake to select good bits out of her writings, and put them together in such a shape that they should make a living whole that would "bring down the house."

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

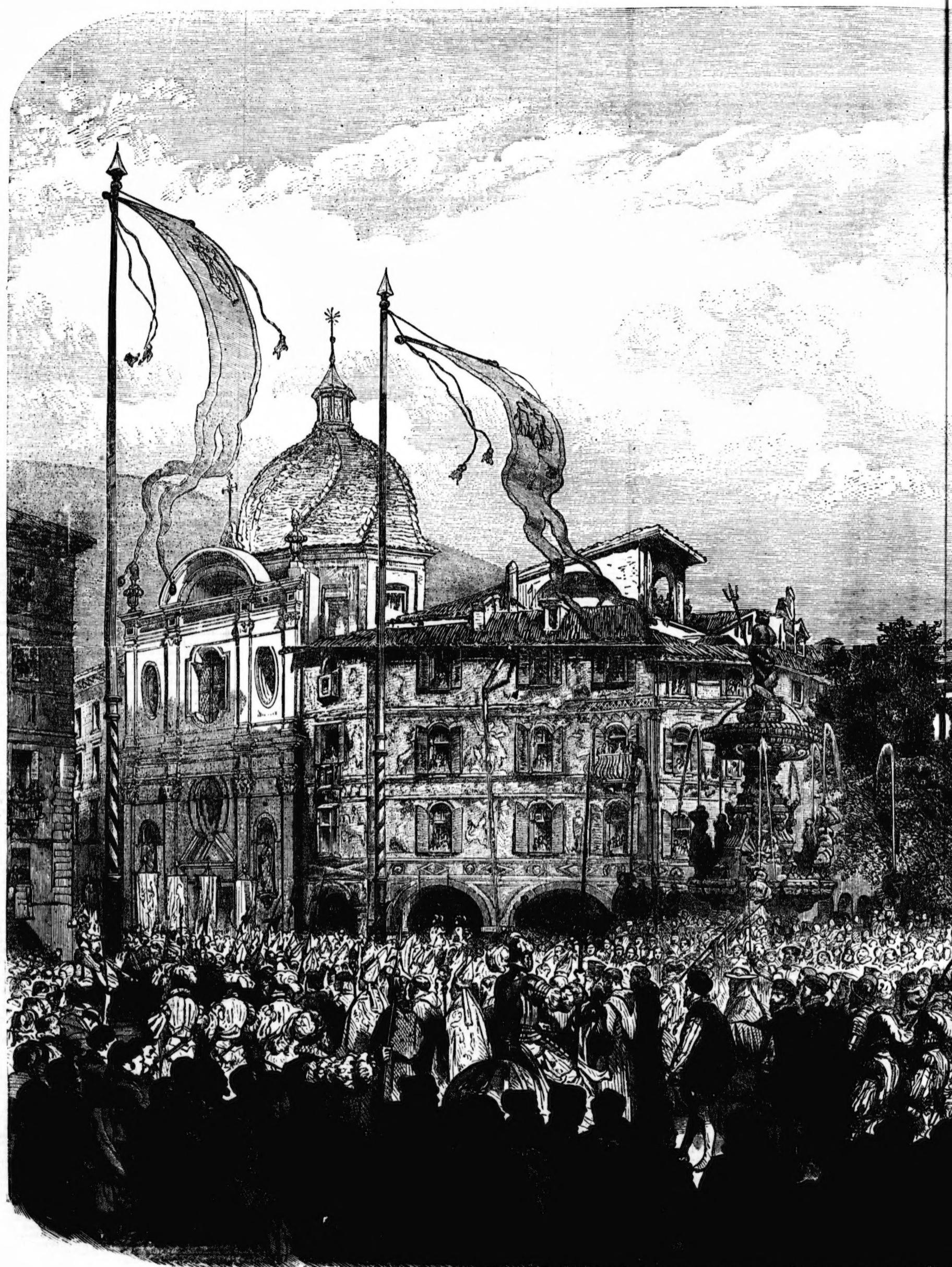
"Now, Mr. Lounger, I want to take the children to a pantomime; which is the best?" This is the question I expect to be asked pretty frequently. Indeed, it has been put to me already. I have no hesitation in recommending DRURY LANE. I have seen the two great pantomimes, Drury Lane and Covent Garden; and the little ones certainly ought to go to Drury Lane. I don't mind owning that I always look at pantomimes from a child's point of view. Drury Lane is grotesque, old-fashioned, and very story-bookish. Covent Garden is grand, imposing, and essentially modern. To hear the peals of laughter from several boxes of youngsters at Drury Lane warmed my heart. It made me sad to see the children dozing off to sleep at Covent Garden. "Beauty and the Beast" is Mr. E. L. Blanchard's subject at Drury Lane, and he has not only preserved the delightful story—not modifying it, or destroying our nursery theories in the least—but has contrived to cram it with pantomime animals. There is a scene which represents Forest of Apes, introducing hundreds of pantomime monkeys swarming up trees, flinging apples at harmless mortals, and performing those inevitable scratching tricks so peculiar to the tribe, which would make the dullest pantomime a success; not that "Beauty and the Beast" is in the least dull, on my honour. But I really believe the children would far sooner have these grotesque pantomime baboons and the two excellent property camels Mr. Blanchard has introduced than the real animals from the Zoological Gardens. It is a treat to see the children jump up in the boxes and clap their little hands with joy when the merchant pulls off the most mischievous monkey's tail and Mr. Vokes makes his camel turn his head and nod a farewell to the audience. There is nothing hackneyed or common in Mr. Blanchard's pantomimes. They are like seeing the dream occasioned by a delightful story-book. The fairies talk like fairies, and the picture breathes romance and sweetness. Looking at Mr. Blanchard's book also from a more critical point of view, I find flowing lines, perfect rhymes, and songs which are very far removed from the common jingle which is usually forced to drag out the music from the throats of singers. The animals are certainly the great feature of the Drury Lane pantomime; but Miss Kate Santley is a charming maiden to look upon, and the Vokes family, male and female, perform such extraordinary tricks with their limbs that I am afraid to say how high they can be flung. Mr. Beverley's ballet scene is charming; but the transformation disappointed me. I am at once removed from the realms of poetry into detestable prose when I see ballet-girls standing on wooden rods which are not concealed in the least from the audience. I don't want to think of ballet-girls or mechanism, but to dream of fairies and wings. Mr. Cormack has arranged some very pretty dances; but I hope the gauze cloaks of the first ballet are uninflammable. If not, we shall have a hideous scene one of these nights at Drury Lane.

The pantomime at COVENT GARDEN, founded on the old story of "The Yellow Dwarf," is grand and desperately heavy. Such a gloomy house, and such a gigantic stage, would kill the finest pantomime that was ever conceived. The dresses, superb as they are, seem absolutely lost, and so do the little people—though some of them are very great people—who take part in the pantomime. Most charming of all, though almost killed in the wilderness of Covent Garden, is Miss Nelly Power. Surely never was lady gifted with such a melodious voice—talking and singing—as Miss Nelly Power. She alone can be distinctly heard; and really, in freshness, burlesque power, and *chic*, she eclipses all the great English Opera Company who for this occasion descend to pantomime. I was talking of animals just now. Strange to say, the only laugh in the Covent Garden pantomime is occasioned by Mr. F. Payne cutting in half a Cerberus who guards the Yellow Dwarf's steel castle. The dog being split in two, each half dances off to a popular burlesque tune. This is very funny, but I really found little else to laugh at. Mr. F. Payne is very mannered; but that eternal windmill dance of the arms and legs, and the running-on and off with very short steps are easy tricks, and are almost becoming a nuisance. Mr. W. H. Payne stoops to a ballet-girl's short dress and bare arms and neck to get a laugh. Poor Mr. W. H. Payne! The scenery, on which Covent Garden used to pride itself, is not nearly so good as usual. I always look forward to a fresh wood scene from Mr. Hawes Craven. This year Mr. Craven has painted an absurd ballet scene, in which the trees grow not leaves but worsted-work antimacassars. Now it is ridiculous to suppose that bunches of flowers, tied up with bows, can grow on trees even in fairy-land, and why should huge pedestals for moderator lamps be introduced in a poetical wood? The scenery is altogether vulgar and Tottenham-court-roadified, showing not the least invention or fancy. The ballets are, of course, superb, and the dresses must have cost mints of money, but the Covent Garden pantomime is certainly as heavy as lead. Indeed, as a spectacle, I have seen nothing as yet so brilliant and tasty as the Gaiety burlesques.

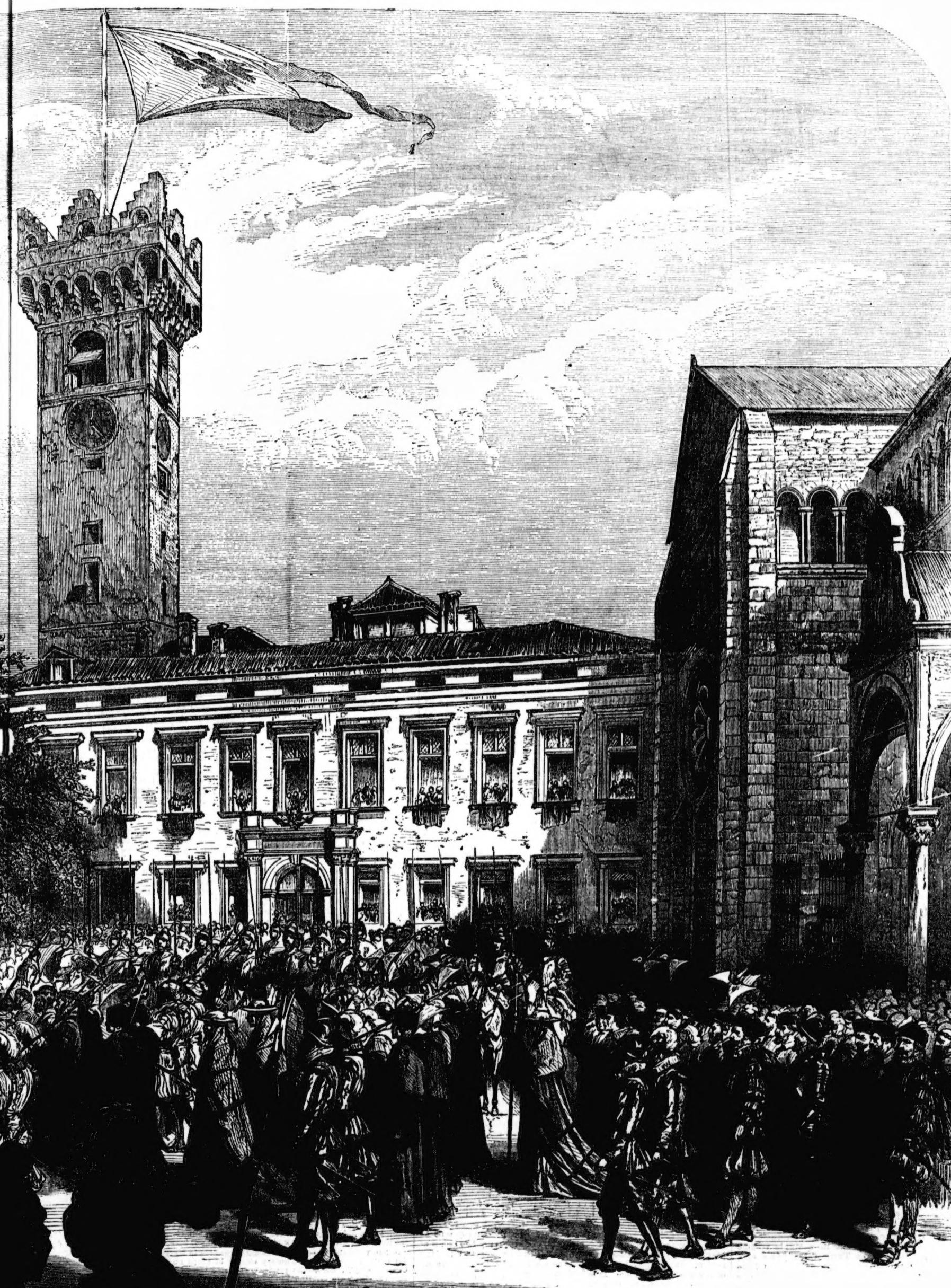
On another occasion I shall have to tell of the West-End burlesques and the East-End pantomimes. If I were to see everything at once I should not lounge, but gallop.

The Charles Mathews' benefit performance promises to be a great success. I hear all the places are booked.

PENNY POST-OFFICE ORDERS.—The principle of compulsorily registering all letters found to contain coin, so as to prevent temptation being unnecessarily placed in the way of postmen, is no doubt good; but the practice frequently inflicts injustice upon the recipients of such communications, who are in no way responsible for the breach of the Post-Office regulations. A letter containing sixpence was recently delivered to the person who brings this subject under our notice, and he was charged eight-pence, double registration fee, because his customer had been thoughtless enough to inclose a sixpence instead of half a dozen stamps, which would have been nearly as great a temptation to any dishonest postman. Government, in fact, allow stamps, which are equally as difficult to identify as money, to be inclosed in letters, although they are nearly as easily detected as coin and as readily abstracted. It appears to us that if any penalty is to be inflicted upon anyone it should fall upon the real offender. Letters found to contain coin, if unregistered, might be forwarded to the dead-letter office and returned to the sender, with such an intimation and a charge for postage as would deter him from again violating the Post-Office regulations. At all events, it is a great injustice to the receiver of such a letter to be charged double the usual registration fee—the ordinary registration fee would surely be quite sufficient. The real remedy, however, for the too common practice of sending coin, or even postage-stamps in letters, would be for the Post Office to grant every possible facility for the transmission of small amounts by ordinary post-office orders. If the charge for post-office orders for amounts under 3d. were reduced to a penny, instead of the present charge of 3d., there would be no excuse for transmitting small sums in any other way. Such orders would be of great benefit to the poor, who often have to pay a high rate of discount for converting stamps—the common mode in which assistance is sent to them—into the current coin of the realm. The suggestion is one that is at least worth the consideration of the Post-Office authorities, and if some such regulation were adopted it would be a great convenience to the public, and also tend to keep temptation out of the way of post-office officials.—*Leamington Advertiser*, Dec. 23, 1869.



A REMINISCENCE OF THE COUNCIL OF TRENTE: DEPUTIES TO THE COUNCIL ON



ON THEIR WAY TO THE ASSEMBLY AFTER HEARING MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL.

THE GREAT PAPAL COUNCIL OF THE PAST.

Now that the world waits, although perhaps only a small part of the real power of the world cares, for the proceedings of the great Ecumenical Council at Rome, it is not uninteresting to refer to that solemn assembly which more than three centuries ago held all Europe in suspense during its deliberations. The Council of Trent was opened on Sunday, Dec. 13, 1545, and closed on Sunday, Dec. 4, 1563; having been thus prolonged by all kinds of accidents—war and political changes, and by the progress of the Reformation. For ten years the Council was prorogued in consequence of the revolt of Maurice of Saxony against the Emperor, in 1552, and during this long interval three Popes died in succession—Julius III., Marcellus II., and Paul IV. It was reopened by Pius IV., in 1562. Twenty-five sessions were necessary from first to last to complete the work undertaken; and, though it would be impossible here to go into the history of the Council and its deliberations, we may indicate such proceedings as are illustrative of the present Council, which has, however, received at the outset a check from France which may probably cause the claim of infallibility to be allowed to rest without exalting it to a dogma. The Council of Trent was first convoked by a bull of Pope Paul III., dated May, 1542, for the avowed purpose of restoring peace to the Church, distracted by the schism of Luther and other Reformers. The Papal Legates, one of whom was Cardinal Pole, proceeded to the town of Trent, which was chosen for the session as being a kind of neutral ground between Italy and Germany. All Christian Princes were to be invited, and especially the King of France and Charles V.; but neither of these two Monarchs, who were at war with each other, seemed inclined to comply with the Pope's request; and the Legates, who found but few distinguished guests present, did not open the Council. In fact, Charles was endeavouring to do what many less powerful and less clever people are now trying to accomplish—to effect a union between Protestants and Roman Catholics, and even to promote a general or mutual Council. There were State reasons for his endeavouring to propitiate the Protestants; but no real union could be effected, although he patched up a sort of mutual toleration for a time by the Diet of Speyer in 1544, when certain decisions were come to for maintaining the material interests of both sides until a future Diet should permanently settle the matters in contention.

This, of course, offended the Pope, who wrote a letter of censure; but, peace between Francis and Charles having removed the chief obstacle, the Ecumenical Council was formally opened. It was decided that the votes should be given not by nations, but by individuals, so that the result was a large accession of influence to the Italian Bishops, who were proportionally more numerous than the rest, and it was by them that the proposition to begin by reforming abuses instead of settling dogmas was discarded; though, in order to keep peace and satisfy both parties, it was afterwards determined to proceed simultaneously with both subjects, devoting alternate sittings to each.

The first duty was to define the sources of authority in matters of faith to be the authentic books of the Scriptures and the traditions preserved in the Catholic Church. Then followed a definition of the dogmas of faith, according to the plan contained in the "Catechism Parochos," which was afterwards published to represent the conclusions of the Council on this subject. During the Council Luther died, in 1546, and soon after was broke out between Charles V. and the Duke of Saxony, in conjunction with the Landgrave of Hesse. At first the Council was alarmed; but Trent was comparatively undisturbed, and the session continued, with the settlement of the seven sacraments of baptism, confirmation, the eucharist, confession or penance, extreme unction, ordination, and matrimony, on each of which questions the orthodox doctrine was propounded, and the opinions of the Reformers condemned and anathematized. The questions of pluralities and reforms in the Church proved the most difficult to settle, and the Legates proposed that the Pope should take the task into his own hands. This he did by directing a bull to the Council to that effect, and the result was a serious disagreement between himself and many of the delegates. At last, in March, 1547, the Legates suddenly broke up the session, which was the seventh since the opening of the assembly, and transferred the Council to Bologna, under the representation that a contagious disorder had broken out in Trent. Eighteen Bishops, most of whom were in the Emperor's dominions, refused to leave the city; but the others followed, and Charles V. at once protested against the meeting at Bologna, and refused to recognise it as a Council.

In 1559 Julius III. succeeded Pope Paul III., and again convoked the Council at Trent; but few prelates attended. The French King and the Pope were not on good terms because of the disputed possession of Parma; and his Majesty forbade his Bishops to go to Trent, where, he said, they would not be safe, and half threatened to assemble a national council in France. Notwithstanding this, the Council of Trent proceeded to define the doctrine of transubstantiation, the Lord's supper, the mass, confession, and other sacraments, while decrees were also made on the subject of discipline, episcopal jurisdiction, and other matters. At this session there were present ambassadors of Maurice, Elector of Saxony; of the Elector of Brandenburg, and several Protestant divines from Wittenberg and Augsburg, who, having obtained a safe conduct from the Council, requested a conference on the controverted doctrines. Then came the revolt of Saxony against the Emperor; the prelates were scared from Trent, the Council was prorogued, and the Legates returned to Italy. For ten years the session was not resumed. Julius Marcellus and Paul IV. died, and Pius IV. at last reopened the Council on Jan. 18, 1562, by a solemn assembly at the cathedral of Trent. It is this great occasion which is illustrated in our Engraving, and it was one of the most magnificent gatherings that the old city had ever seen—princes, bishops, nobles, cardinals, men-at-arms, and great retinues of attendants made splendid pageant in the quaint streets. Cardinal Gonzaga was named president by the Pope, and 112 archbishops, bishops, and mitred abbots were present, besides the cardinals, the orators of various States, and great representative nobles. The question of indulgences came quite early under the consideration of the assembly, and the Pope sent a special messenger to direct the suppression of quasitors, or dispensers of indulgences, who had been the cause of the first great schism in Germany. The Court of France wished to conciliate Protestants by permitting the use of the cup to the laity in the sacrament; the envoy of the Duke of Bavaria advocated the expediency of allowing priests to marry. The great dispute as to whether a Bishop held his see by Divine right, or only at the will of the Pope, almost led to a schism in the assembly; but at length this was settled by the arrival of the learned Cardinal Lorraine and fourteen French bishops, three abbots, and eighteen doctors of divinity. Finally, after numberless disputes, quarrels with the representatives of princes, and especially with Renaud Ferrier, President of the Parliament of Paris, and orator to the Council on behalf of the French King, the Council came to more or less definite conclusions, and on Jan. 26, 1564, the Pope confirmed the results of its deliberations by a bull issued in solemn consistory and signed by the Cardinals.

For a complete account of the whole protracted debate, running through so many years, it would be necessary to consult the voluminous records contained in fifty volumes at the Bibliothèque of the ancient city; but in a single volume of three hundred pages, published at Turin three years ago, Giovanni Finazzi has well summarised the proceedings. Of the town one of the most interesting buildings is the Bibliothèque itself, for it contains a rare collection of manuscripts; but the whole aspect of the place is imposing from its church towers, palaces, and ruined towers. The old Gothic castle is a splendid monument of the past; the cathedral, a magnificent structure in the round or Byzantine style, was finished in 1212. It was in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, a modernised building of red marble, that the Council held the sessions which we have briefly recalled to the attention of our readers.

CHICAGO.

By the residents Chicago is often styled the "Garden City." Both its citizens and its admirers sometimes claim for it the still more dignified title of the "Queen City of the West," or the "Queen City of the Lakes." The pride they take in it is extreme, and the language in which they express their feelings is high-flown. This appears quite natural to the traveller who has journeyed from England to the United States in order to witness the marvels which human industry and energy have wrought on the surface of the vast American continent. Books and newspapers may have prepared him for the sight of an extraordinary spectacle, yet neither tables of statistics nor any printed statements can enable him to realise the grandeur of the impression produced by a sojourn, however short, in the great city of Chicago. It is with a sensation of incredulity hardly to be repressed that he listens to the stories which tell of the city's foundation and history. Forty years have not elapsed since the site of palatial dwellings was distinguished from the surrounding wilderness by a log fort, in which two companies of soldiers were stationed for the protection of a few traders who collected furs from the Indians in exchange for trinkets. In those days civilised men regarded a visit to the shores of Lake Michigan much in the same light which men now regard a visit to the sources of the Nile. Those who made the journey had to brave the attacks of ferocious animals, had to face the perils incident to an inhospitable and uncultivated region, had to live in constant dread of an attack from Indians more cruel than any beast and more crafty than any other enemy in human shape. The wild men and wild animals have both disappeared. The land which yielded a precarious subsistence to the hunter now repays the skillful farmer a hundredfold. Where weeds formerly thrived in rank profusion, peach-trees are now heavy with precious fruit. A city of palaces has taken the place of a few miserable hovels. Similar transformations have occurred in other parts of the globe. Venice and Holland do not fall short of Chicago as evidences of what man can achieve in his struggle with rugged Nature and hostile elements. Yet the growth of either city was the work of many years, as well as of much toil; whereas Chicago has waxed great within the memory of men still living, and not yet old. If another Queen Scheherazade were compelled to rehearse a tale of enchantment for the gratification of an exacting husband, she might find in the authentic story of the rise of Chicago materials which would produce as striking a result as that caused by a recital of the fabulous doings of Aladdin.

Although figures convey but an imperfect notion of the wonders performed by the spirited and enterprising inhabitants of this city, yet,

in default of a better medium through which to supply information, they must be employed. In 1830 the population of Chicago was about one hundred persons, of whom a small proportion was white, the majority being black men and half-breeds. It was incorporated as a city in 1837, when the Census was taken, and the number of inhabitants found to be 4170. Ten years later the number was doubled; twenty years after its incorporation it contained 100,000 citizens, and at this moment the estimated number is 300,000. Nor is there any prospect of a stoppage in the rate of increase. In every quarter hundreds of workmen are labouring at the erection of new houses or the substitution of larger for smaller dwellings. Nor is the rapidity of the city's growth less extraordinary than the way in which natural obstacles to its progress have been confronted and overcome. Situated on the shore of the lake, it was found to be very unhealthy. In order that neither damp foundations nor bad drainage should breed malaria in the houses, the entire business quarter of the city was elevated eight feet above its original level. This was done without interference with domestic comfort, stoppage of traffic, or injury to trade. While houses and shops were rising upwards, families slept securely in their beds, sat at ease in their rooms, took their meals as if the even tenor of their lives was undisturbed, while merchants conducted their daily business, and the public made their daily purchases. For some years complaints had been made about the lack of good water for drinking purposes. The water supply obtained from the lake was adequate in quantity, but was by no means wholesome. This was owing to the place from which it came being near the shore, and, in consequence of this, being contaminated with the sewage and refuse falling into the lake at this point. It was resolved in 1864 to remedy this defect by means of a tunnel carried under the water for a distance of two miles and open at its farther extremity to the pure water of the lake. Three years afterwards the new waterworks were in active operation, and they are capable of supplying 57,000,000 gallons daily. Even this is hardly sufficient, and it is proposed to build a second tunnel. In addition to the supply from this source, there is a large quantity of pure water obtained from two artesian wells, one of which is 700 ft. and the other 1100 ft. deep. Another great work is the Washington-street Tunnel, an undertaking quite as noteworthy as the tunnel under the Thames, which used to excite the admiration of country cousins and intelligent foreigners. Finding that the amount of traffic in the Chicago river seriously impeded traffic over the bridges, which had to be opened whilst vessels were passing, it was determined to construct a tunnel under the river, and a short time after the project had been mooted the work was executed.

The rapidity with which this city has attained to the commanding position now held by it in the estimation of Americans is due to the way in which opportunities have been turned to account as much as to any natural advantages it has enjoyed, or even to the foresight and boldness of its citizens. The situation is certainly most favourable. From here eleven railways branch off to various parts of the Union. The lakes give access by water to numerous centres of commerce. Agriculture flourishes in the vicinity, and the farmer finds in Chicago both a market where his grain always commands a price, and a storehouse whence he draws whatever he requires for the purposes of husbandry or for the comfort of his home. There is thus a continuous current of produce streaming through Chicago on its way to the consumer in the eastern States or in Great Britain. How speedily the trade in grain has been converted from an insignificant industry into an industry of unprecedented importance, let the following facts bear witness. In 1838 the shipments of grain were 78 bushels; in 1848 they were 3,001,714 bushels; in 1858 they were 20,635,166 bushels; in 1868 they were 67,896,760 bushels. If these figures did not appear in official returns of unquestioned correctness, they would be read with incredulity. As it is, they excite wonder; and this is intensified when it is found that in other departments of commerce, such as the trade in cattle and lumber, the like progress has been made. Not long ago Cincinnati took the lead of every city in the Union as the place where the largest numbers of pigs were slaughtered, salted, and packed for exportation. In proof of this, the city was commonly known by the name of Porkopolis. But, if the statements of the citizens of Chicago are to be accepted, the glory of Cincinnati has passed away, and the Garden City must henceforth be regarded as the city which loves of bacon and ham are bound to honour.

The abundance, excellent quality, and moderate price of peaches, apples, and other fruit sold here excite the admiration of the visitor. In some streets the pavement is incumbered with boxes of fresh peaches. I learned that these are produced in the State of Illinois. The soil and climate of that locality render fruit-growing as profitable as in the southern parts of Germany. It is said that during the strawberry season five cars filled with strawberries arrive at Chicago daily. When the peaches are ripe, the supply sent to market every morning fills twenty cars, each carrying 500 boxes of peaches. Egyptian Illinois is the name of this prolific fruit-bearing region. Intersected by railways, the market is within easy reach of the cultivator's door. It is seldom that a crop fails, the climate being equable and temperate. Thousands of acres are still to be had by the settler. When I add that this land may be purchased for less than £2 the acre, I have said enough, I think, to excite the desire of many to possess and till it.

Material prosperity and rapidity of growth have made Chicago a city of note, yet other things have made it a city of influence. Its newspapers are quite as remarkable and worthy of praise as its splendid streets and magnificent buildings, its extended commerce,

and public works. The leading journals appear on Sundays as well as on the other days of the week. This is opposed to the practice not only of England, but of the eastern States of America also. In the principal cities there are Sunday newspapers; but, as a rule, the daily journals are not published on Sunday. Here, on the contrary, the Sunday copies of the *Tribune* and the *Times* are much sought after, and contain an extra quantity of reading matter. While newspapers are in demand, the churches are not deserted. As a church-going people the citizens of Chicago will bear favourable comparison with the inhabitants of any city wherein the forms of religion are rigidly observed. The churches are very numerous. Most of them are fine specimens of modern ecclesiastical architecture.

What a traveller values most in a strange city are good hotels, fine buildings, well-stored shops, and well-kept streets. In Chicago he will find all these things.

The way in which the streets are kept is creditable to the city authorities. There is still room for improvement; yet, when the condition of those in New York is borne in mind, the streets of Chicago seem almost perfect. Special and praiseworthy attention is shown to the safety of the foot-passengers who cross over crowded thoroughfares. Policemen are stationed to see that the street is not monopolised by conveyances, to the danger and annoyance of pedestrians. These guardians of public order discharge their duty with an impartiality which merits praise. It is too often the custom, and in New York it is the rule, for policemen to be attentive to young and gaily-dressed ladies, and to suffer all others to shift for themselves. To quacks selling nostrums the police are not a terror. These charlatans ply their trade on the footpath in complete security, and with a success which is only too great. Among the crowd of poor labourers which surrounds them they find credulous listeners and an easy prey. I saw one of these charlatans doing an enormous business within a stone's throw of a leading hotel. His dress was that of a gentleman, and his manners and language were far superior to those of an itinerant vendor of the London streets. He had a pill which would annihilate every known malady, and an oil which would assuage every pain. As an inducement to buy the pills and the oil, he presented the purchasers of either with an infallible cure for corns and bunions. This seemed to give satisfaction to his audience, for numbers exchanged their greenbacks for his rubbish. Another branch of imposture flourishes here in the evening. In one street there are large numbers of mock auctions in full play. The business of many auctioneers appeared to be the same—that is, to sell watches and tell lies.—*Correspondent of the "Daily News."*

GERARD MERCATOR.

OUR readers have probably observed a paragraph in the papers recently stating that the inhabitants of the Pays de Waas are exerting themselves to raise the necessary funds for erecting a statue to their countryman, Gerard Mercator, who was born in the little village of Rupelmonde, near Antwerp, upwards of 350 years ago. It is very probable that a majority of Englishmen have never even heard of his existence, while many of those to whom his name is familiar from the map called "Mercator's Projection," are probably ignorant of the hydrographic discovery which made him famous.

According to a common custom in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the young student at the College of Louvain, son of a poor cobbler named Kremer, of Rupelmonde, Latinised his patronymic and appeared in the world as Mercator. His devotion to study was so persistent that he is said to have frequently forgotten to eat and sleep. His maps and plans, not only drawn, but also engraved by himself, became so renowned that they attracted the notice of the Emperor Charles V., who gave the young geographer every encouragement. The success of Columbus had roused the desires of navigators, and numerous expeditions and voyages of discovery undertaken in the early part of the sixteenth century had made the occupation of chart-drawing a very important one. Yet the maps and plans of this age were defective and inaccurate. The lines of longitude, necessarily represented in curves, were unsuited to the purposes of navigation, and pilots drew out charts of their own, wherein the degrees of longitude and latitude were represented by perpendicular and horizontal lines. These were, of course, incorrect, as they disregarded the contraction in the degrees of longitude; for in reality the lines converge as they approach the poles, although the lines of latitude remain unaltered. These errors were severely felt by sailors, and attracted the attention of Mercator, who at once grappled with the difficulty, and, by the simplest modification, removed it. Having drawn the longitudinal degrees perpendicularly, he compensated for the exaggeration in the distances at the poles by proportionally enlarging the degrees of latitude. Thus the relative positions of places were preserved, and the navigator was enabled to calculate the direction of his voyage with some amount of accuracy.

Notwithstanding the importance of this invention, and the value of the map published by Mercator in 1630, and called "Mercator's Projection," it was not generally used by sailors, and was but little known; for thirty years later E. Wright, an English hydrographer, published in London a similar map, copied from the Flemish one, and entitled the "Correction of Errors in Navigation." But in his native country and in Germany Mercator's works were renowned, especially his maps of Palestine and Flanders, the latter having been corrected entirely from his own personal surveys of the country. To an ardent mind like his the study of geography suggested innumerable subjects for investigation, and while in the prime of life our map-maker drew up a programme of the work he intended to undertake. He considered himself called upon to inquire into the formation of the world, the disposition of its various component parts, the positions and laws of motion of the stars, their nature, and whether they possessed the influence attributed to them by astrologers; the composition of the elements; a description of the kingdoms of the world and the genealogies of princes from the earliest ages, together with the history of peoples and their migrations from the first inhabited countries to the more recently-discovered regions. "Such," he wrote, "is in effect the natural order of things which makes us acquainted with causes and origins, and which is the best guide for enabling us to reach true science and true wisdom." It would appear, however, that in pursuing these studies he was led into the expression of what were termed heterodox opinions; and, notwithstanding the remonstrance of the Curé of Rupelmonde and the protestations of the Abbé de St. Gertrude, of the University of Louvain, he was thrown into prison and subjected to a tedious examination. But the absence of any evidence against him forced his persecutors to release him; and he made use of his liberty by transferring his residence to Duisburg, where he obtained the protection of the Duke of Cleves, who appointed him his cosmographer. He died in Duisburg, in 1594. A voluminous biography of Mercator and his works has now been published by Dr. I. van Raemdonck, who is also interested in the erection of the statue in Rupelmonde.

DEAN O'BRIEN has published a fresh list of signatures to the priests' declaration in favour of an amnesty to the Fenian prisoners. He states that it has now been signed by 1100 Roman Catholic clergymen, representing a population of 2,000,000. Dean O'Brien adds in a postscript that he "thinks it right to say that if the names of no Dublin clergymen appear at the foot of the declaration it is not because it has not been sent to them."

SUNDAY TRADING.—A public meeting was held in Marylebone on Tuesday night to promote the voluntary closing of shops on Sunday. Mr. T. Chambers, Q.C., M.P., who presided, spoke of the exertions which were being made on the Continent to recover the leisure of the day of rest, and also of the efforts he had himself made for procuring a similar result in England. One of the speakers stated that, according to the report of the London City Mission for 1869, there were, in the half of London visited by the missionaries, 18,444 shops and public-houses open on Sundays, out of 33,768 in the district. A resolution was passed deplored the fact that, "at the lowest estimate, there are 70,000 shopkeepers and their assistants in the metropolis who are engaged in Sunday trading," and earnestly suggesting to them the "advantage of beginning the new year by closing their shops on Sundays."

LIFE-BOAT SERVICES IN 1869.

THE year which has just closed will long be remembered as one of the stormiest on record. It is, however, gratifying to know that it will also be well remembered for the great exertions which have been put forth to save shipwrecked persons. It appears that during the past twelve months the boats of the Royal National Life-Boat Institution have been the means of saving during boisterous weather the crews of the following distressed vessels on the coasts of the British Isles:—Scarborough fishing-boats—rendered assistance; brig Beatrix, of Whitby—assisted to save vessel and crew, 7; brig Pearl, of Shoreham, 8; barque Eliza Caroline, of London—remained alongside; ship Hannah Pettersen, of Bergen, 20; ship Ingrid, of Amsterdam, 9; schooner Elizabeth Miller, of Thurso, 4; schooner Matilda Calder, of Findhorn, 8; barque Adelaide, of Pernambuco—rendered assistance; schooner Amelia, of Torquay, 8; schooner Doddington, of Dumfries, 1; schooner James Cuckow, of Ipswich, 7; brigantine Helena, of Liverpool, 1; schooner Mary Lloyd, of Carnarvon, 4; brigantine Rebecca, of Carnarvon, 6; schooner Sally Green, of Liverpool—rendered assistance; schooner Francis Ann, of Goole, 3; brig Belle, of Sunderland, 9; barque Fierenosca, of Genoa—assisted to save vessel and crew, 13; boat of the brig Elizabeth, of Blyth, 8; trawler Start, of Brixham, 4; schooner Gaspard, of St. Malo, 1; barque Cora, of Havre—remained alongside; schooner Chaffey Winkel of Aalborg, 7; brigantine Thomas, of Poole and Padstow, shore-boat, 14; brig Carl, of Rostock, 7; schooner Alexandrienne, of Pomic, 6; schooner Lord Coke, of Middleboro, 4; Austrian brig Veritas—assisted to save vessel and crew, 3; brig Queen of the Tyne, of Shields, 8; barque Liebertas, of Genoa, 14; barque Lady Westmoreland, of Newcastle—assisted to save vessel and crew, 18; brig Robert Bruce, of Belfast, 7; barque Selina, of Falmouth, 8; ship Calcutta, of London, 8; schooner Friends, of West Hartlepool, 5; schooner William Thompson, of Dumfries, 4; schooner Blossom, of Tharso, 3; schooner William Wallace, of Dundalk—saved vessel and crew, 5; lugger Isabelle, of Dinan, 4; screw-steamer Hellenis, of Dublin, 21; schooner Prudence, of Watchet, 3; brig Phyllis and Mary, of Blyth—assisted to save vessel and crew, 8; schooner Ldy Anne, of West Hartlepool—assisted to save vessel and crew, 5; ship Electric Spark, of Boston, U.S., 22; yacht Emette, of Dunmore East—assisted to save vessel and crew, 3; barque Empress, of Prince Edward's Island, 18; smack Active, of Seisey—saved vessel; Dutch-schooner Talkeina Meiskenia—assisted to save vessel and crew, 8; steamer Viking, of Dundee, 7; smack John James, of Chester—saved vessel and crew, 2; billyboy Swan, of Hull, 6; schooner Gipsy King, of Glasgow, 1; schooner Elephant, of Ulverstone, 1; ship Frank Shaw, of North Shields, 14; brigantine Cherub, of Yarmouth, 4; barge Ernest, of Ipswich, 4; brig Zosteria, of Colchester, 6; brig Lizzie, of Newport, Monmouth, 8; schooner Ariel, of Truro, 5; brig Henrietta Greve, of Granton—saved vessel and crew, 9; steamship Lady Flora, of Hull—remained alongside; barque Drago, of Genoa, 16; barque Highland Chief, of London, 11; barque Tavistock, of Plymouth—saved vessel; schooner Pride of the West, of Penzance—saved vessel and crew, 6; barque Columbia, of Statanger—assisted to save vessel and crew, 8; schooner Handy, of Wexford, 4; brigantine Isabella, of Aberdeen—rendered assistance; barque I. O. Howitz, of Bostock, 8; coble Mary, of Hartlepool, 4; coble Kingfisher, of Hartlepool—assisted to save vessel and crew, 5; coble William and Alice, of Hartlepool—assisted to save vessel and crew, 5; sloop Amelia, of Castletown, 2; steam-whaler Diana, of Hull, 31; barque Bartolomeo Cerruti, of Genoa, 14; Dutch brigantine Catharina, 5; brigantine Elizabeth, of Draghead—assisted to save vessel and crew, 7; brigantine Saint Arta, of Santander, 8; brig Watermilloch, of Sunderland, 6; three fishing-cables, of Scarborough—assisted to save vessels and crews, 9; barque Hannah, of Drobak, Norway, 9; barque Medoc, of Bordeaux, 17; brig Dawson, of Newcastle, 6; brig Helsingoe, of Elsinore, 14; sloop Frances Mary, of Inverkeithing, 3; brig Scheidam, of Middlesborough, 5; schooner Brenton, of Fowey, 5; schooner Columbine, of Wexford, 5; brig John and Mary, of Shields, 9; brig Ravensworth, of Hartlepool, 6; brigantine Gleaner, of Carnarvon, 3; schooner Trusty, of Boston, 3; ship William Frothingham, of New York—assisted to save vessel and crew, 18; barque Emilie, of Swinemund—assisted to save vessel and crew, 14; barque Anna, of Malta—assisted to save vessel and crew, 16; ketch Heckler, of Cullin, 2; schooner Astrea, of Königsberg, 6; sloop Ann Elizabeth, of Barnstable—saved vessel and crew, 3; brigantine Commodore, of Waterford—saved vessel and crew, 5; schooner Two Sisters, of Aberystwith, 3; smack David, of Cardigan, 3; brig Supply, of Stornoway, 7; schooner Bonnie Lass, of Wick—rendered assistance; steamer Anglaise, of Dublin—rendered assistance; schooner Adina, of London, 8; brig Echo, of London, 2; schooner Melina, of Llanelli—rendered assistance; schooner Loretta, of Billa, 13; Austrian barque Suez, 10; brig Mary Young, of West Hartlepool, 8; schooner Vigilant, of Hayle, 8; schooner Jessie, of Liverpool, 3; ship Providence, of Waits, 3; schooner Agathe Siebel, of Stettin, 10; steamer M. E. Clark, 17; ship Constantia, of Bremen—assisted to save vessel and crew, 26; and brig Englishman, of Workington, 6.

This long list makes a total of 826 lives rescued by the life-boats of the institution from the above-named disasters, in addition to 28 vessels saved from destruction. During the same period the Life-Boat Institution granted rewards for saving 360 lives by fishing and other boats, making a grand total of 1186 lives saved mainly through its instrumentality.

These noble services of the life-boats have varied much in character: many have been during the dark hours of night, others have been by day; some have been at short distances from the shore, others on the outlying banks far from the land. In some cases greater danger has been incurred than in others. In some men have been washed overboard from their boats, but recovered again.

Indeed, the work of saving shipwrecked persons, even in the best-appointed life-boats, must ever be one of danger, and no little courage and hardihood are required on the part of those who engage in it. By giving their invaluable aid they perform their full share of the duty of alleviating and reducing the amount of the misery and evil produced by the storms on our coasts. It remains for those who cannot share the risks and exposures which these brave men incur to perform their part in this humane work by enabling the institution which has undertaken to organise and superintend it to provide the life-boat crews with every means of safety and efficiency, and to remunerate them sufficiently, thus serving as some encouragement to them in return for the risks, and labour, and exposure which they undergo.

The National Life-Boat Institution accordingly appeals to all humane and generous persons in the United Kingdom to contribute from their abundance towards so good a cause.

THE DUKE OF GENOA AND THE SPANISH THRONE.—A letter has been addressed by the King of Saxony to his daughter, the Duchess of Genoa, urging her not to allow the young Duke of Genoa to accept the crown of Spain. The *Berlin Correspondence* says that the reasons given in the letter are—that Spain is at this moment torn by party dissensions; that its finances are in the utmost disorder; and that if it be possible to re-establish order in the country it can only be done by an energetic man, not by a minor, who would receive the crown merely to be the sport of intrigue and ambition. The *Berlin Correspondence* adds that the Duchess has replied to the letter by stating that she entirely concurs in the views it expresses, and that, if she can prevent it, her son shall never set foot in Spain.

VICTOR HUGO'S CHRISTMAS FEAST AT GUERNSEY.—Victor Hugo delivered, on Wednesday, Dec. 22, his annual speech before his forty-two poor children and a large company of guests at his residence, Hauteville House, Guernsey. His speech bore on politics, and on the education of children. Its key-note is contained in the last sentence:—"A torch given to a child will become a sun in the future." The guests and children were served with cakes and wine, and the children received also garments and playthings. On Monday, during the greater part of the year, at the poet's residence, one set of twenty-one poor children partake of a good dinner; the succeeding Monday another set of twenty-one meet; and so on alternately. At Christmas the forty-two are assembled to celebrate the anniversary of the institution, and the poet delivers a speech.

Literature.

Normandy Picturesque. By HENRY BLACKBURN, Author of "Travelling in Spain," "Artists and Arabs," &c. With numerous Illustrations. London: S. Low, Son, and Marston.

"In a dreary December"—and let us add January to Keats's month—the mere notion of a summer's tour in Normandy is enough to make the blood glow. The Spaniards and the Arabs, however, have been warmer companions for Mr. Blackburn than the Normans; and his preceding travels have had comparatively novel elements, such as sandy scenes and almost savage life, compared to what can be gathered from Normandy, which is not altogether without English characteristics. But Spain and Algeria have the disadvantage of being difficult to manage by Englishmen, whilst Normandy can be managed with something like ease. Indeed, the author of the present volume says that it presents something like a compromise in the shape of a tour, including the undoubted delight and charm of foreign travel, yet with scenery more like that of England than any other in the world, and the close association between the two countries for the last eight hundred years. Mr. Blackburn is critical and practical, and never touches the guide-book flowers of rhetoric except in derision. He finds nothing in the country to ridicule, and does not worry himself or his readers about extortionate hotel-keepers or eccentric fellow-travellers. He examines the fine architecture with acumen, and gives the modern English a piece of his mind on the subject. His book is undeniably slight; but any "laying-on" might have disfigured it, and made it go wide of the mark aimed at without hitting anything else. Travelling in Normandy is, in a certain sense, a difficult matter; since all the network of roads and railways lead to Paris, just as they go from everywhere to Rome, and the modern Norman cannot believe that anybody wants to go anywhere save to Paris. And so it becomes necessary to be very strict. Perhaps it need not come to fighting; but the Norman railway booking-clerk will have an altercation with the intelligent foreigner who only wants to go from one part of Normandy to another. The traveller must insist on using the cross roads, which are not so pleasant at the highways, but answer his purpose better. The diligence, also, is in full force, and will be found a great deal more pleasant, say, than any English omnibus or than most English railways. In these ways, then, Mr. Blackburn tells us how he reached Pont Audemer, which he likens to Venice, because of its silent highways and old façades, and lintels down to the water's edge. Like Venice, also, it has its peculiar odours—but that scarcely matters when the people are so addicted to the occupation of tanning that some of the churches are even turned into tanneries. Leaving Lisieux alone, we come to Caen, which is so entirely in the hands of the English that it might almost console Queen Mary "When Fortune's malice lost her Calais." And then there is Dives, no longer so rich as it was, and suggesting Lazarus instead; but it is interesting as being an ancient Roman town, and the place where William the Conqueror "quitted his Normandy" to overthrow Harold. Bayeux at once suggests its remarkable tapestries. They are remarkable, in our opinion, principally on account of being as good as new, and as grotesque as ever. Of the tapestry showing the great event of the Conquest, Mr. Blackburn says that the "design is very unequal, some of the latter scenes being weak in comparison, especially that of the death of Harold; the eleventh-century artist, perhaps, becoming tired of the work, or having, more probably, a presentiment that this scene would be painted and exhibited annually, by English artists, to the end of time." In reading the book we can linger over many pleasant scenes and sketches, none being more so than that delightful beauty of nature, "The Fishing Girl of Granville;" but so many people must know already the place and its charming inhabitant, and it is impossible to quote half a dozen pages. We can only conclude with mere touch-and-go. Avranches is a delightful place, and the English seem to think so; whilst Mortain has the disadvantage of being dirty. With a leap and a bound, as Coleridge says the fierce Anapeast press, we pass on to Falaise, which seems to be a strange place; for in the churches and the castle the showman is perpetually treading on the traveller's heels. The natives interrupt an artist, and he cannot "do" Falaise properly if he wants to sketch. Ever since the London and Brighton Railway so successfully disputed the road to Paris with the South-Eastern Company everybody has seen Rouen and thanked his stars for the Dieppe route. Perhaps the great number of pages devoted here to Rouen will be all the more liked on that account. It is sufficient to mention their existence, and to agree with Mr. Blackburn that the French watering-places offer nothing unknown to print, except Trouville, wherein the recent services of Mr. Blanchard Jerrold are recognised, and also the beauty of its new buildings, which have old-fashioned characteristics and contrast most favourably with our own dear domestic architecture, which Canova describes as "square boxes with square holes in them." Here we leave Mr. Blackburn's "Normandy," with the assurance that it is as "picturesque" as the country itself. Some recommendations to lady travellers we can recommend; and society, travelling or non-travelling, will like to read the chapter of criticism on Art with which the volume closes. The illustrations? They are almost always little gems of architectural wood-engraving; and then there is a portrait of the fishing-girl at Granville.

Notes on the North-Western Provinces of India. By A DISTRICT OFFICER. London: W. H. Allen and Co.

The District Officer is plainspoken. He professes that his small volume may be found useless to members of the Indian Civil Service who have served in the provinces; but he hopes his "Notes" will be found of value to new members setting out in life. They will be found very serviceable indeed. A brief geographical sketch is followed by a few pages, showing "how we are governed" through various subdivisions of responsibility, native as well as English; and we fancy that even some more subdivisions in favour of the natives might be made with advantage to the service. A chapter on "The Soil" is curious, and principally remarkable for insisting on some scheme of forming plantations, in order that fire-wood may be obtained, and thus the natural supply of animal manure be left for its more natural purposes. Indians will know what is meant. This, however, would surely be hard draining for a land which is so greatly in want of irrigation that wells, canals, and tanks are common objects of the country. Of crops we remark that in the north-western provinces rice is frequently a luxury. The long chapter on "Land Tenure" must be studied at length in these modest and valuable pages.

The Knight's Ransom. By L. VALENTINE, Author of the "Home Book." With Original Illustrations. London: F. Warne and Co.

A publisher's preface announces this as a revised and here-and-there re-written book, originally called "The Ransom." It seems that it has been wanted of late, and is now suffered to take its place in "Warne's Household Novels." Far better had it been left to its obscurity. It is but a dreary, high-flown imitation of the long-explored absurdities of G. P. R. James. The two horsemen soon put in an appearance, and they and all the rest talk in a style which it is to be hoped the Knights Templars knew nothing about. The knights, Edmund, Edward Gerald, &c., fall into the hands of the Saracens—period, 1250—and plot, at home and abroad, against each other on account of their "lady loves." The knight we are to like best is Gerald, and he is ransomed literally by the hand of his Constance, which has been demanded by the Emir, and which she has amputated for that purpose. No matter: he is left with a handsome family at the close of the Barons' War. People have a right to their own taste. Let all who have been pining for "The Ransom" know it under its new name.

Our Children's Story. By ONE OF THEIR GOSSIPs, Author of "Un Voyage en Ziggzag," "Pictures in Tyrol," &c. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.

This book, prose, verse, and pictures together, all from one pen (for the woodcuts are from pen-and-ink sketches), is one of the most charming we ever saw. The story of the "One Sable Muff and the Two Ermine Moff" is flavoured with the very essence of nursery tradition, and will never be forgotten by any children to whom it is once recited. "The Baby's Story," and that of "Middy," the dog, are excellent. The tale of the wives who carried their husbands on their backs out of the beleaguered town is very old and well known, and the "Story of the Wolfskin" has a familiar ring with it. But this is nothing, and we can praise the work with the very utmost cordiality. It is sweet, innocent, and tender, and full of that peculiar humour without which books of similar pretension have absolutely no "reason of being." Of the illustrations, by the author himself, it is not possible to speak too strongly. They appear to have delighted Mr. Ruskin, and well they may.

Storm Beaten. By ROBERT BUCHANAN and CHARLES GIBBON. London: Ward, Lock, and Tyler.

This is a collection of stories with a common setting. They are some in prose and some in verse, and appear to have been written many years ago. Mr. Robert Buchanan, by his "Idylls of Inverburn" and some other works, and Mr. Charles Gibbon, by his "Robin Gray," have since made their marks, each in a sufficiently decisive way; and though, possibly, they may neither of them be pleased with this reprint, there is nothing in it that either need be ashamed of. Some of the writing is, indeed, very effective, and the whole has, in high degree, that indescribable characteristic freshness. The reader must be warned that he will find in this collection pieces which neither of the authors would now write; but for all that, "Storm Beaten" would, in any case, be pronounced a clever group of stories, with plenty of "g" and invention in them.

The Woman who Dared. By EPES SARGENT. Boston: Roberts Brothers. 1870.

This is a long blank-verse poem, dated in advance of our time, and written in advance of our conclusions on the subject of matrimony and woman's rights.

Nay, when man or woman
Can look up, with the heart of prayer, and say,
Forbid it, Heaven! forbid it, self-respect!
Forbid it, merciful regard for others,
That this one should be parent to my child!—
That moment should the intimate relations
Of marriage end, and a release be found.

These lines nearly express the drift of the poem, which would be very well worth reading—were it much worse poetry than it really is—if only for the boldness with which it declares the right of every woman to choose the man she likes best.

THE CITY OF BOOKS.

THERE is something touching in the terms in which the printers of Leipsic, in the year 1610, expressed their intention to celebrate the bi-centenary of the invention of printing. Germany was then in the depths of woe and devastation on account of the Thirty Years' War, but nevertheless they resolved to have a jubilee, "to thank God for this benefit, and in friendly talk to take a drink and frugal meal together in stillness." Leipsic, though always an important citadel of the book trade, did not, however, enjoy its present metropolitan dignity till the year 1765, when Nicolai and a few other leading booksellers agreed, on account of certain vexatious restrictions at Frankfort, to remove the central mart from that place. At the same time they laid the basis of a booksellers' association at Leipsic, which, not successful for a time, was afterwards, in 1825, consolidated and extended, and now numbers about 1000 members. The handsome building called the Booksellers' Exchange, opened in 1836, is the financial head-quarters of this association. Here, at the time of the great fairs, especially of the Easter Fair, a lively spectacle may be witnessed. Hundreds of booksellers throng the great hall discussing and disseminating literary intelligence, while in the lesser hall counters are laid out displaying specimens of new works in German and foreign literature. The strictly financial business, which used to be the chief motive for the reunion, is now managed through the medium of the "commissioners," and the principals themselves thereby obtain more time for the cultivation of social and other amusements on the occasion of their periodical visits than in former days. The "commissioners" in the Leipsic book trade are an institution of great importance. They are the general agents for distant firms. At the great Easter Fair the commissioner receives or disburses the requisite sums on behalf of his employers. It is stated that in 1867 as many as 130,000 cwt. of books were dispatched from Leipsic, and probably as many came in. Since then the number has considerably increased.

As to the amount of actual publishing work done in Leipsic, we learn, from the German statistical account before us, that it amounts to about one sixth of that done in all Germany, including Prussia and Austria. Thus, in 1861, 12,000 works were published in Germany (4300 was the number for England in the same year); of these about 2000 would be the number emanating from Leipsic. Berlin stands next to Leipsic in publishing importance, and claims about one eighth of the annual contributions to German literature. In the number of newspapers and journals published, Berlin exceeds Leipsic; this is natural, considering the political importance of the former as the Prussian capital.

All the branches of industry auxiliary to the making of books flourish in Leipsic. Forty-seven printing establishments now exist in Leipsic and its suburbs, employing 1000 journeymen, 300 apprentices and 450 women. Within the last ten years, too, there has been a great improvement in the book-binding trade.

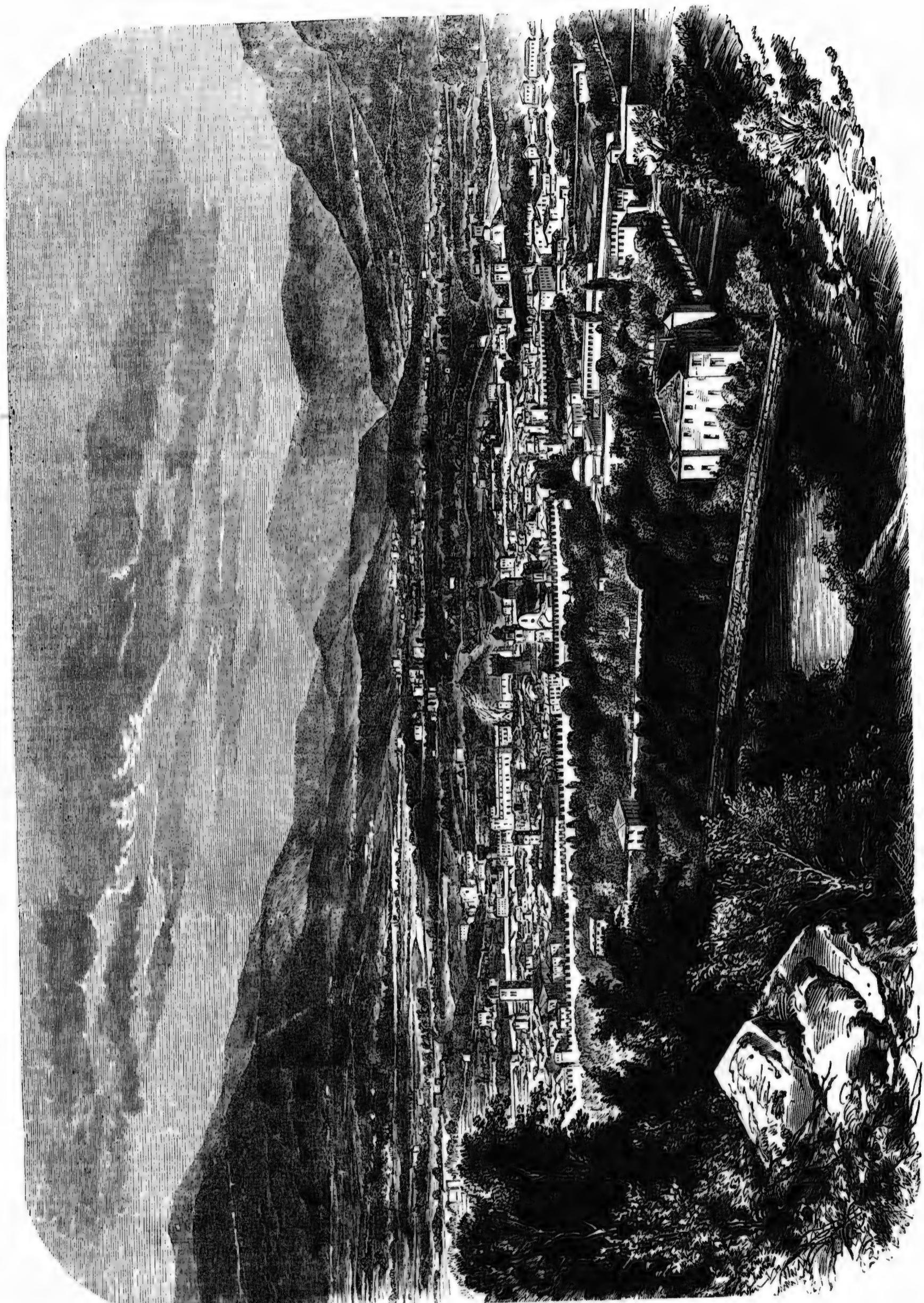
Leipsic is the principal centre for musical publications, not only in Germany, but throughout the musical world. There are twenty-nine publishers in this department, of which the firm of Breitkopf and Härtel stands highest. Röder's, which is the greatest house for musical note engraving, keeps 140 persons at work. The secondhand or "antiquarian" business is very important. There are six leading secondhand firms, well known far beyond the limits of Germany, to each of which appertain immense warehouses, sheltering something like a million volumes. The classed catalogues issued by these six firms form a feature of great interest in the literary world.

Leipsic counts at the present time about 258 bookselling firms, having connection with 3500 houses out of Leipsic. The personal staff they employ amounts to from 800 to 900 persons.

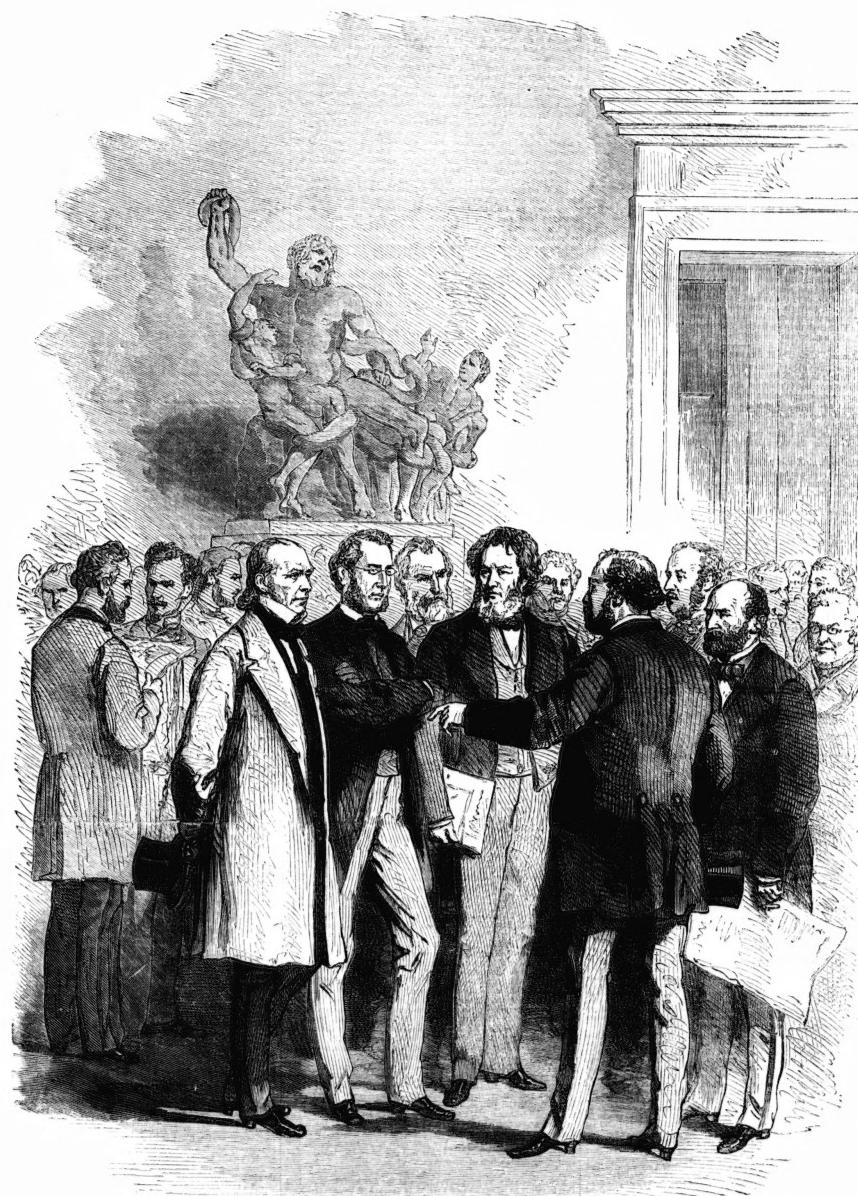
There are two other institutions connected with the trade which deserve mention, and which are localised in the precincts of this Booksellers' Exchange. These are—1. The school for booksellers' apprentices, which was attended by seventy-nine scholars last year. It is designed to give scientific and technical training appropriate to the objects of the trade. 2. The business post office of the Leipsic book trade—a chef-d'œuvre of practical organisation and unremitting activity.—*Full Mail Gazette*.

THE TOWN OF SANTA MAURA, IONIAN ISLANDS. was entirely destroyed by an earthquake at dawn on the 28th ult.

A WONDERFUL OLD WOMAN.—The telegraph informs us that President Lopez, of Paraguay, has again murdered his mother for conspiring against his life. That sprightly and active old lady has now been executed 3000 times for the same offence. She is now eighty-three years old, and erect as a telegraph-pole. Time writes no wrinkles on her awful brow, and her teeth are as sound as on the day of her birth. She rises every morning punctually at four o'clock and walks ten miles; then, after a light breakfast, enters her study and proceeds to hatch out a new conspiracy against her first-born. About two p.m. it is discovered, and she is publicly executed. A light toast and a cup of strong tea finish the day's business, and she retires at seven and goes to sleep with her mouth open. She has pursued this life with the most unflinching regularity for the last fifty years, and it is only by this unwavering adherence to hygienic principles that she has attained her present green old age.—*San Francisco News Letter*.



GENERAL VIEW OF TRENTO DURING THE GREAT COUNCIL OF 1545-1563.



GENERAL VIEW OF TREATY DURING THE GREAT COUNCIL OF 1868-1869.

MEETING OF FRENCH DEPUTIES IN THE SALLE DE PAS PERDUS.

**MEETING OF FRENCH DEPUTIES IN THE
SALLE DES PAS PERDUS.**

We have from time to time given some account of the transformations which have recently been effected in the old building of the Palais de Justice, and especially in that historical apartment known as the Hall of the Lost Footsteps, which itself replaced an old hall burnt in 1618. Our Engraving this week represents a restoration of the place not only to modern architectural proportions but to political importance, for it is here that the Chamber of newly-elected members met before the extraordinary session of their body which has just taken place as a conclusion to the Parliamentary history of the year. This portion of the building, which forms three sides of a square—the fourth side being composed of a handsome railing, richly gilt, in the line of the boulevard—is built in a plain, robust Doric style. The broad range of steps leading to the central terrace is very imposing. The interior consists of a large vaulted hall (the Salle des Pas Perdus) supported by stout columns, lighted by well-placed lunettes, and surrounded by corridors. The hall, arcades, staircases, and courts of law, are all of solid stone. The main hall is decorated with a fine sculpture of the Laocoon, and it was at the foot of the pedestal of this group that the Deputies assembled to discuss the topics which were to engage their attention at the Session.

NEW MUSIC.

The Holborn Viaduct Galop. Composed by H. STANISLAUS. London : Willey and Co.

This is a spirited and lively galop in C major; having well contrasted themes, and being easy to play. Its connection with the Holborn Viaduct is, of course, but nominal. Advantage is, however, taken of it to present a view of the latest City improvement, accurate enough as regards drawing, if doubtful as regards colour.

The Progress Galop. By RICHARDSON. London : Willey and Co.

This galop, like that above noticed, is in C major, and like it, too, is both spirited and pleasing. The titlepage may claim to rank as a curiosity in its way. Progress of various kinds is there represented; from the old culverin to the new Armstrong; from the ancient galley to the modern steam-ram; and from the Elizabethan coach to the Victorian railway-train. The connection of all this going ahead with a galop was a happy thought.

The Acacia Valse. By H. STANISLAUS. London : Willey and Co.

The great majority of vases now published are but poor specimens of their kind. Nothing is easier than to produce melodies in waltz rhythm; but few things are more difficult than to produce such as are striking for their original beauty. Like church chante, the waltz has been pretty nigh used up, and little can be done save in the way of imitation. The example before us is far above the average. Some of its themes are specially graceful; and among other advantages may be reckoned the not unimportant one of easiness. Its key is E flat, with the episodes in B flat and F.

Richardson's Burieta Quadrille. London : Willey and Co.

For the most part distinguished by well-marked rhythm and animated themes, this quadrille deserves equal popularity with the best of its class.

Fantasia on Favorite Airs from Offenbach's Opera "Barbe-Bleue."

For the Pianoforte. By W. KUHE. London : Chappell and Co. In this fantasia the best known airs of Offenbach's work are skilfully threaded, and form a drawing-room piece which is certainly adapted to the taste of those who love light and pretty music. Mr. Kuhe has wisely refrained from loading the themes with ornament; the result is that they speak for themselves, and that no difficulty is thrown in the way of moderate players. Admirers of M. Offenbach will be glad to have a souvenir of "Barbe-Bleue" in this form.

Nur Nicht Verzagt ("Never Mind.") Nocturne pour Piano. Par IMMANUEL LIEBICH. London : Chappell and Co.

We see very little in this nocturne to admire. It makes a considerable pretence of saying something important, and says next to nothing, after all. By-the-by, could not Herr Liebich, writing for drawing-rooms, have done so in a more obvious key than G flat? Could he not also have penned the title in one language, instead of three? There may be some virtue in a polyglot front page, but we fail to see it.

Serenade pour Piano. Par IMMANUEL LIEBICH. London : Chappell and Co.

There are some novel features in Herr Leibich's serenade which make it deserving of notice. It is written in A major; presents but moderate difficulty; and is, altogether, a pretty and effective composition.

The Tyrolean Evening Hymn. Idyll for the Pianoforte, transcribed from "Come to the Sunset Tree," by W. S. ROCKSTRO. London : Chappell and Co.

Everybody knows and more or less admires the melody which Mr. Rockstro has here adapted for the piano. About it, therefore, nothing need be said. As to the transcription, there will be various opinions. It is of the order "brilliant," and, whatever its musical merit, fairly presents a chance of display to those who have attained some degree of skill. We must confess, for ourselves, that the simple melody, expressively rendered, would be more satisfactory than all Mr. Rockstro's elaborate adornments.

The Meeting of the Waters. Characteristic Sketch for the Pianoforte, transcribed from the favourite Irish Melody by W. S. ROCKSTRO. London : Chappell and Co.

As our estimate of this transcription, we can only repeat what we have said with reference to that of the Tyrolean air.

"FIASCO."—A French paper gives the following account of the origin of the expression, "to make a complete fiasco." A German, one day seeing a glassblower at his occupation, thought nothing could be easier than glass-blowing, and that he could soon do it as well as the other. He accordingly commenced operations by blowing vigorously, but could only produce a sort of pear-shaped balloon or little flask (fiasco). The second attempt had a similar result, and so on, until fiasco after fiasco had been made. Hence arose the expression which we not unfrequently have occasion to use when describing the result of our private and public undertakings.

THE ARMY SERVICE CORPS.—A Royal warrant has been issued for the formation of a corps to be denominated the Army Service Corps. It is to be commanded by commissioned officers of the Control Department, and will in the first instance be formed of volunteers from the Military Train, Commissariat Staff Corps, Military Stores Staff Corps, and that portion of the Army Hospital Corps which is attached for duty to the purveyors' branch of the Hospital Department of the Army. In matters of discipline, the Army Service Corps will be subject to the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, but in all other respects it will be under the direction of the Controller-in-Chief, who will select an officer of the Control Department, of the rank of assistant-controlling officer, to act as staff officer of the corps. This officer will be charged with the general superintendence, and with the preservation of its records.

AMERICAN PRISONS.—The American prisons appear to be the best and the worst in Christendom. The best as regards the larger and State prisons; the worst as respects some of the county gaols, and even some larger prisons in the western States. Almost incredible enormities were reported, last spring, of certain Indiana prison, such as systematic profligacy and revolting cruelties practised by the male officers on the female prisoners. The Howard Association has been since reliably informed, by a valued correspondent in the west, that the reports were but "too true." Thanks to the energetic action of Mr. Charles F. Coffin, of Indiana (chairman of State Reformatory), and some others like-minded, these abominations have been checked, though it is feared their perpetrators have not been duly punished. The appointment of short-term officers (in prisons, post-offices, &c.) in the United States, mainly through political party interest, and only during the term of party tenure of power, is a curse and bad in many ways. It often checks or almost paralyses the influence of the patriotic and able men who are, happily, neither few nor inactive in that great country.

POLITICAL AND ETHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF DARWINISM.

The last number of that clever new publication, *Nature*, contains an article on "Darwinism and Natural Life," in which the writer says:—

"We do not expect for a long time to hear an orator in the House of Commons commence his speech by announcing (as a distinguished member of the Austrian Reichsrath recently did in a debate on the relation of the different nationalities in the empire) that the whole question is whether we are prepared to accept and to act upon the Darwinian theory. But even an average M.P. may be brought to see that it may be possible, indirectly, to influence the character and prosperity of our descendants by present legislation; and none will deny that, if this is practicable, a higher duty could not be cast upon those who guide the destinies of a nation.

"A glance at the operation of Darwinism in the past will best show how potent it may be made in the future. Look at English progress and English character, and consider from this point of view to what we owe it. There were originally some natural conditions favourable to the growth of our commercial and manufacturing energy. We had an extensive coast and numerous harbours. We had also abundance of iron-stone in convenient proximity to workable coal. Other nations either wanted these advantages or were ignorant that they possessed them. These favourable conditions developed in many individuals a special adaptability to commercial pursuits. The type was rapidly reproduced and continually improved until England stood in the field of commerce almost alone among the nations of the world. And what is there now to sustain our pre-eminence? Nothing, or next to nothing, except the type of national character which has been thus produced. Steam, by land and sea, has largely diminished the superiority which we derived from the nature of our coast; and coal and iron are now found and worked in a multitude of countries other than our own. Our strength in commerce, like our weakness in art, now rests almost exclusively on the national character which our history has evolved.

"Take another example of the character of a people produced partly by natural conditions of existence, but far more by the artificial conditions to which evil legislation has exposed it. What has made the typical Irishman what he now is? The Darwinian theory supplies the answer. Ireland is mainly an agricultural country, with supplies of mineral wealth altogether inferior to those of England, though by no means contemptible if they were but developed. This is her one natural disadvantage, and it is trifling compared with those which we in our perversity created. For a long period we ruled Ireland on the principles of persecution and bigotry, and left only two great forces at work to form the character of the people. All that there was of meanness, and selfishness, and falsehood was tempted to servility and apostasy, and flourished and perpetuated itself accordingly. All that there was of nobleness and heroic determination was drawn into a separate circle, where the only qualities that thrived and grew were irreconcileable hatred of the oppressor and resolute but not contented endurance. The two types rapidly reproduced themselves, and as long as the external conditions remained unaltered they absorbed, year by year, more and more of the people's life; as, if Darwinism is true, they could not but do. And what is the result now? A great part of a century has elapsed since we abandoned the wretched penal laws, and yet none can fail to see in Ireland the two prevailing types of character which our ancestors artificially produced, the only change being that the two types have become, to a certain extent, amalgamated in a cross which reflects the peculiarities of each. Whether future legislation may so far modify the conditions of Irish existence as to work a gradual change in the national character is a question of much interest, but too large to be discussed just now. In any case, we can scarcely expect the result of centuries upon a national type to be reversed in less than a succession of generations.

"Still confining myself to the past, let me point again to the very marked qualities which the conditions of their existence have produced in the people of the United States. They started with a large element of English energy already ingrained into them; they have been reinforced by millions of emigrants presumably of more than the average energy of the various races which have contributed to swell the tide. Added to this, the Americans have enjoyed the natural stimulus of a practically unlimited field for colonisation. Only the resolute, self-reliant settler could hope to prosper in the early days of their national existence; and self-reliance approaching to audacity is the special type of character which on the Darwinian hypothesis we should expect to see developed, transmitted, and increased. How far this accords with actual experience no one can be at a loss to say. There is probably not a nation in the world whose peculiarities might not be traced with equal ease to the operation of the same universal principle. And the moral of the investigation is this:—Whenever a law is sufficiently ascertained to supply a full explanation of all past phenomena falling within its scope, it may be safely used to forecast the future; and, if so, then to guide our present action with a view to the interest and well-being of our immediate and remote descendants. Read by the light of Darwinism, our past history ought to solve a multitude of perplexing questions as to the probable supremacy of this or that nation in times to come in the field of commerce, as to the effects of emigration and immigration on the ultimate type likely to be developed in the country that loses and in that which gains the new element of national life, and many another problem of no less interest to ourselves and to humanity."

OBITUARY.

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER.—Dr. James Prince Lee, Bishop of Manchester, died at his residence, Mandreth Hall, near Manchester, on Friday, Dec. 24, in his sixty-fifth year. He died rather suddenly, but had been in bad health some years. He was educated at St. Paul's School, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where, in 1827, he obtained a Craven Scholarship. He subsequently became fellow of Trinity College. He was for some time assistant master of Rugby School, under Dr. Arnold; and afterwards became Head Master of King Edward's Grammar School at Manchester. On the creation of the new bishopric of Manchester, in 1848, he was appointed to be the first Bishop.

LORD TORPHICHEN.—Lord Torphichen died on Friday, Dec. 24, at his seat, Calder House, near Edinburgh. His Lordship, who was the eleventh Baron in the Peerage of Scotland, was born in 1807, and was consequently sixty-two years of age. He succeeded his father in 1862. He was married, in 1863, to Helen, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Maitland, of Dundrennan, M.P. for the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, but leaves no issue. His title devolved upon Mr. James Walter, son of the late Hon. and Rev. John Sandilands, Rector of Coston, Leicestershire.

MR. THOMAS CRESWICK, R.A.—We regret to announce the death of an artist who, if popularity be the evidence of greatness, has every claim to that title. His works, like himself, were pleasant and cheerful, ever taking the sunny view of nature, and by his death the public lose a benefactor and the profession an esteemed brother. Mr. Creswick was born in 1811, and from the age of sixteen down to the present year the exhibition of the Royal Academy has been graced by the presence of his works. We may not be called upon to regret the loss of a mighty genius, but few people who take any interest in art will fail to add their tribute of sympathy for the loss of Thomas Creswick.

NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE.—The Lords of the Admiralty have resolved that in future no letters whatever are to be franked in the Admiralty departments except such as are on official or semi-official business, to be verified by the initials of the writer in the corner. No letters are to be sent home from foreign stations in the Admiralty bags (except on official or semi-official business) without the permission of the Commander-in-Chief or senior officer, and without having proper postage-stamps affixed to them. No private letters are to be transmitted to foreign stations in the Admiralty bags except on similar conditions; and any letter received at the Admiralty insufficiently stamped will be sent to the Post Office to be dealt with under the regulations of that department.

THE COST OF THE EDUCATION LEAGUE SCHEME.

At a recent meeting of the Wakefield branch of the National Education League, Mr. Carter, M.P. for Leeds, combated the argument that the scheme of the Education League would prove an expensive one. What the league really proposed respecting rates for school purposes was, first, that Government should cut off the national taxes pay two thirds of the cost of all public schools, whether denominational or non-denominational in their character. Secondly, that the remainder of the cost should be borne, in the case of the denominational schools, by the managers of the schools, either out of donations or school pence, as they might determine; and, in the case of non-denominational schools, out of the local rates. The gross estimated rental of property assessed for local purposes in England and Wales—and his figures throughout had reference to England and Wales only—amounted, in 1868, to £118,600,000; but he was willing to take it at something less, say, £96,000,000 rateable value. Now, 2s. in the pound on £96,000,000 was £9,600,000. If, then, Mr. Stanyer was right, the one third required from local authorities would amount to £9,600,000, and the two thirds from Government to £19,200,000; or, altogether, the cost of educating 3,200,000 children would reach £28,800,000—an average of £9 each per annum. He was sure they would say the supposition was simply preposterous. He would try to give them some idea of what the league scheme really might cost. They were told that in State-aided schools there were 1,226,000 children who had been presented at examinations, and that these were educated at a cost of £1,300,000 per annum. Now, if education was not more costly than those returns indicated, why require £28,000,000 per annum? or, supposing all the cost to be thrown upon local rates, why make it twice per head what it was at present? Supposing the predictions of the friends of the Education Union to be correct, and that all the schools must be free and rate-aided—the lean cattle of the league having swallowed up all the fat cattle of the union—they would then have to provide one third of the cost of the education of 3,200,000 children. In the Government assisted schools the present cost was about £1 6s. 8d. per scholar. At that rate local authorities would have to provide one third of £4,800,000; but, allowing 30s. per annum as the cost of each scholar, £1,600,000 would be required from the local rates. In order to raise that sum, the rateable values of England and Wales being £96,000,000, a rate not of 2s. but of 4d. in the pound only would be required. According to the estimates of the league, and supposing that one half the children were in denominational schools, and not requiring local aid, two thirds of the cost of educating them being met by Government and one third by subscriptions and school pence, then only one third the cost of educating 1,600,000 would require providing for, which would amount to £800,000—just 2d. in the pound on the rateable value of the country. They were told by the friends of the union that they were educating .5 per cent of all the children in the kingdom. If that were the case, then all the league scheme would have to provide out of local rates would be one third the cost of instructing only 800,000 children, and that would be £400,000 per annum, or 1d. in the pound on the rateable value of the kingdom. He thought, therefore, that he should have succeeded in proving to them that the statement that 2s. in the pound would be required out of local rates for educational purposes by the league scheme was either a gross exaggeration or a wilful misrepresentation of the facts of the case. He had not much doubt that those appeals to their pockets were intended to alarm and throw them off their guard. But he would ask them to take a purely selfish view of the matter. How would the scheme affect the working classes? Would it be a benefit or a burden? His answer was that it would be an immense benefit to the working classes. At what period of life had they the greatest difficulty to make both ends meet? When their family was young—when the little hungry mouths were to fill, the little backs to clothe, and the school wage to pay. Supposing schools in accordance with the league scheme should be established, and that they should be rated for them even as high as 6d. in the pound, the rateable value of their respective houses being £5, the rate would only amount to 2s. 6d. per annum, or 4d. per week. He would urge working men to look the matter full in the face. It would not prove such a terrible thing, even supposing that what the Rev. Mr. Stanyer said was true. The rate would then only amount to 10s. per annum, or 2½d. per week—less, in fact, than one child would cost them now. But they might object that they had no children. He would advise them not to tell that to any man with a family. He would only laugh at them—for he would know that they could all the better afford to pay the rate in consequence. They ought to remember that somebody had had to educate them, and they must be prepared to assist in the education of others. Perhaps they might be able to say that their children were educated in higher and better schools, at their own cost. All the better for such that Providence had blessed them with the power of sustaining themselves as well as helping others. What they paid in school rates they or their children would find returned to them in the future in poor rates, police rates, gaol rates, and in the increase of intelligence and industry among the working-class population.

PRE-HISTORIC REMAINS IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

The Rev. Canon Greenwell, of Durham, and Mr. C. H. Cadogan, of Brenkbury Priory, have completed some highly interesting Northumbrian examinations of prehistoric burials on Harbottle Peels, on the estate of Mr. P. F. Clennell, of Harbottle Castle. The site is on the slope of the hill rising from the river, in the valley of the Coquet—a district which abounds in prehistoric remains, camps, cairns, &c., and where from time to time weapons and implements of bronze and stone have occurred. The place where the graves were found had once a cairn of stones over it. This had been removed some years ago to make a neighbouring fence. The first discovery was of a stone cist, formed of four slabs set on edge, a bottom stone, and a cover. The cist was S.W. by N.E., 2 ft. 9 in. by 2 ft. 3 in., and 16 in. deep. It contained an urn known as the "food vessel," of flower-pot shape, 6 in. high and 6½ in. wide at the mouth, and covered over the whole of the outside with lines of oval impressions in the clay. At 4 ft. 6 in. to the north was a second cist, made in like manner, N. and S., 3 ft. 5 in. by 2 ft. 3 in., and 19 in. deep. In it was a food vessel in the north-east corner, 5 in. high, 7 in. wide, flower-pot shaped, with four unpierced ears. This urn externally, for 3½ in. from the top, was beautifully ornamented in "herringbone" pattern of lines made by a sharp-pointed instrument. On the slab forming the east side of the cist was a very peculiar grooved figure, cut into the stone by some sharp tool, the marks of which were as fresh as if made yesterday. The figure was of a uniform shape, not unlike the outline of a human foot. It was 6½ in. long and 4 in. broad at the widest part. It was, no doubt, one of those enigmatical markings which in the form of pits and circles have been so frequently found in Northumbrian, and, in several instances, associated with burials, but up to this time always with interments after cremation. Immediately north of this cist was a cinerary urn, reversed, filled with burnt human bones, and placed 18 in. below the natural surface. The urn is 16 in. high, and is ornamented on the overhanging rim with fine lines arranged in chevron pattern. At 3 ft. south-east of the cist was a deposit of burnt bones of a child placed on the natural surface. At 6 ft. north-west of the cist was a most beautiful food vessel, 5 in. high, 5½ in. wide at mouth, flower-pot shaped, and having four unpierced ears. The moulded portion towards the top was ornamented internally and externally with rows of lines and dots of most delicate touch and beautifully regular execution. The body of the vessel was divided into two sections by lines and dots. The sections were filled with chevron patterns of dots in line, the triangular spaces being alternately plain and filled with lines diagonally arranged. The bottom of the vessel was ornamented with a cross of lines and dots, a very rare circumstance. The so-called "incense cups" have the bottoms ornamented occasionally. Upon the whole, this is the

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